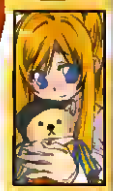
EIGHTH
エイス
The Eighth Day of Creation
6
河内和泉

GC JOKER
EIGHTH エイス 6

河内和泉
SQUARE ENIX

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SQUARE ENIX.

新しくエイスに
やって来た、
8歳の大先生・
天王寺りお。
ナオヤはりおの護衛をすることに
なり、またりおもナオヤの部屋の
居候となって、セルシアやヒカルと
打ち解ける。だがその一方で、
セルシアはりおの身を案じ
ある決意をするのだった…。
セルシアの能力をめぐり、
物語が加速する待望のiPS編、開幕!!

河内和泉

この巻から、りお先生本番です。IPSってよく聞くけどどういうものなの、何に使えるの、なんていうのも、りおてんてーが身を張って解説！そしてそんな最先端科学のIPSと、古めかしいイメージのある宗教、キリスト教・カトリック―バチカンとは意外な関係があったりするわけですが、それ以上に女の子に振り回される騎士二人が見どころです。

IZUMI KAWACHI

EIGHTH

エイス

The Eighth Day of Creation

6

河内和泉

JOKER

EIGHTH 6

河内和泉

SQUARE ENIX

EIGHTH
06

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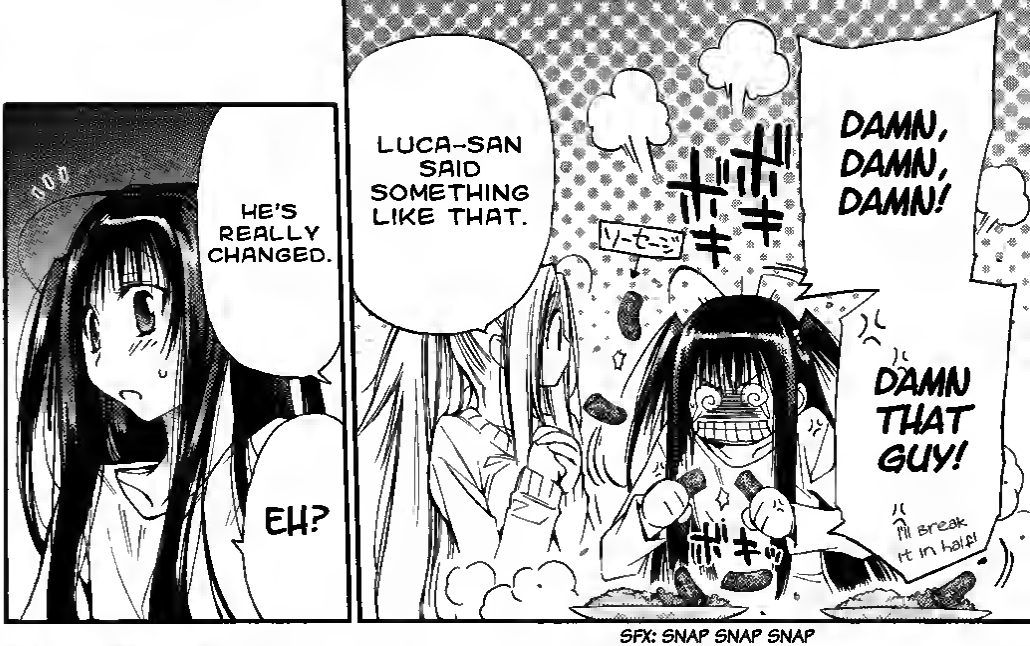
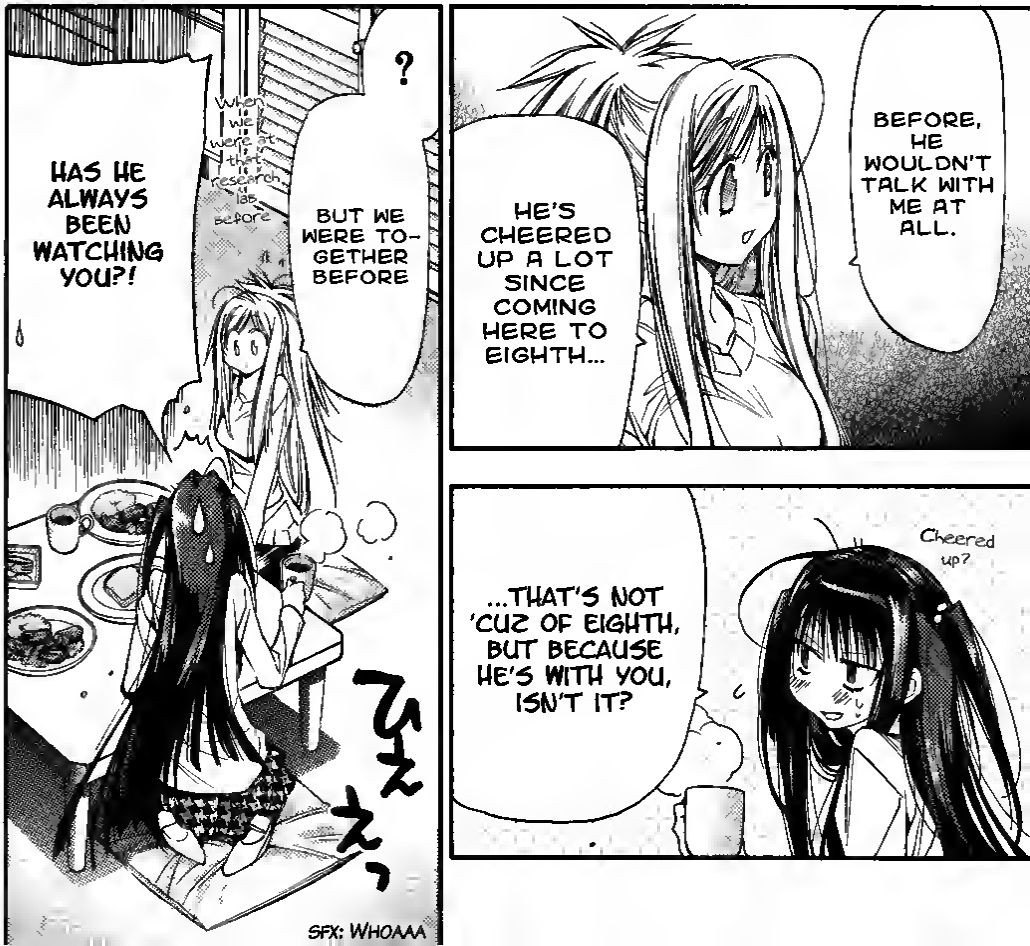
EIGHTH RESEARCH
SECURITY PER-SONNEL HOUSING
EH
NAOYA WENT OFF ON A JOB AGAIN?!

HE'S BEEN GONE SINCE MORNING...
ISN'T HE WORKING A BIT TOO MUCH?
カチャ
HE WENT TO JAPAN.
JAPAN?
HOW IS IT YOU KNOW, CELCIA?
That's
Have some coffee
LUCA-SAN TOLD ME
THAT CHIEF-SAN TOOK HIM WITH HIM.
OH, I SEE.
LUCA-SAN WILL TELL CELCIA EVERY-THING.
There's no reason for you to be treated the same as Celcia.
WHO ASKED YOU!
I TREAT YOU THE SAME.
Like an adult
EAT BREAK-FAST.

... I'm fine.
LUCA-SAN,
HOLD IT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
.....
GET ALONG WELL!
... I'll be right back.
HAVE A BITE.
SFX: HMPH
HEY, YOU!!
They'll shrink.



SFX: SNAP SNAP SNAP


BEFORE, HE WOULDN'T TALK WITH ME AT ALL.
HE'S CHEERED UP A LOT SINCE COMING HERE TO EIGHTH...
Cheered up?
...THAT'S NOT 'CUZ OF EIGHTH, BUT BECAUSE HE'S WITH YOU, ISN'T IT?
?
BUT WE WERE TOGETHER BEFORE
When is it we were at that research lab before
HAS HE ALWAYS BEEN WATCHING YOU?!
ひえっ

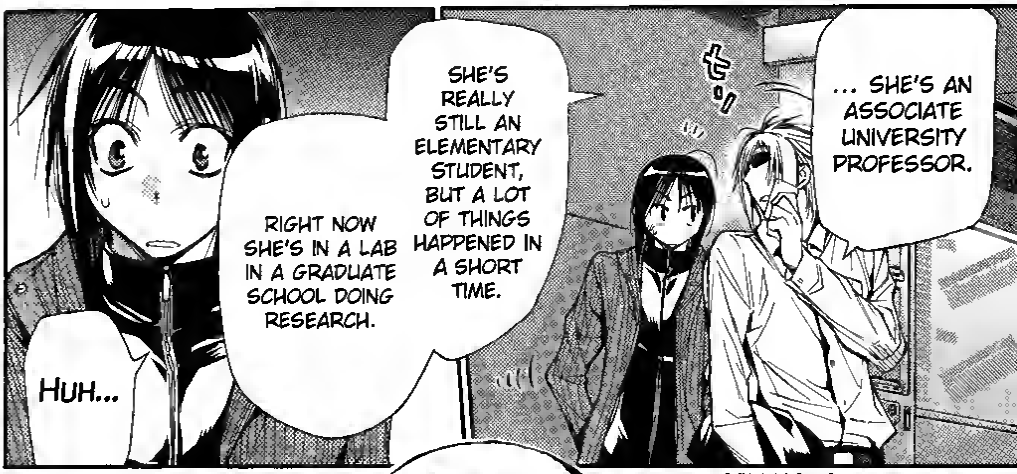
SFX: WHOAAA

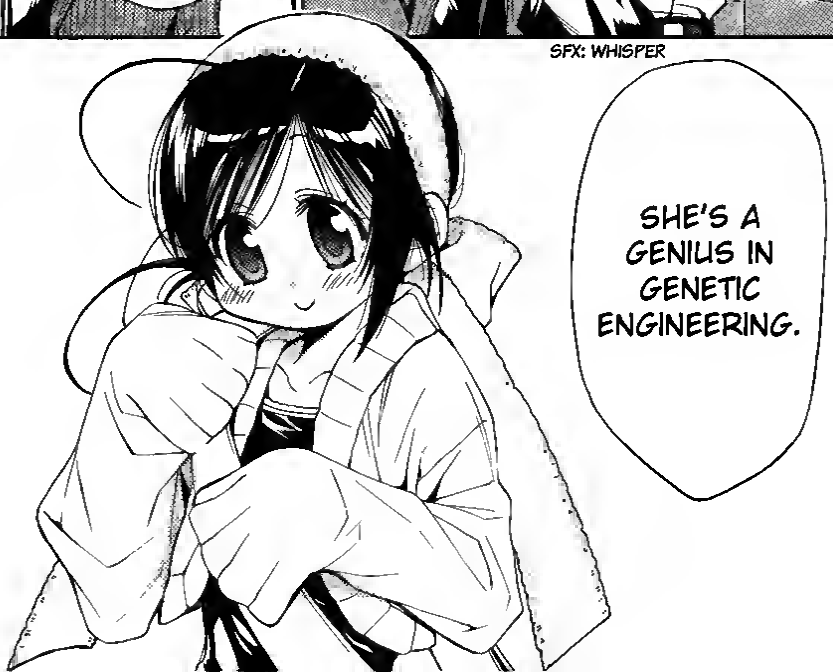
IS THAT NOT LUCA-SAN'S JOB?
!!
Damn.
Y-... YEAH...
IF YOU'RE FINE WITH IT, THEN I GUESS IT'S OKAY...
What a pain
...BEFORE, I WAS SCARED INTO DOING NOTHING BUT EX-PERIMENTS,
FORCED JUST TO USE MY POWERS.
MAYBE I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE IT.
IT'S A NICE THING THAT
I DON'T HAVE TO HERE.

Operation.21 Quality of Life, ② The Little Genius

... SHE'S AN "EXPERT" ...
IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY...?
THIS LITTLE GIRL...?!
Hey!
もち
TENNOJI
A business card?
This is me.
OH. HOW KIND OF YOU.
I AM THE CHIEF AT EIGHTH.

SHE'S SURE LEVEL-HEADED...
SORRY, I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING PREPARED.
No!
I know about Chief-san! Your specialty is immunogenetics!


... SHE'S AN ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR.
SHE'S REALLY STILL AN ELEMENTARY STUDENT, BUT A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED IN A SHORT TIME.
RIGHT NOW SHE'S IN A LAB IN A GRADUATE SCHOOL DOING RESEARCH.
HUH...


SFX: WHISPER
SHE'S A GENIUS IN GENETIC ENGINEERING.

A GENIUS
Er, how nice...
GOING A BIT FURTHER, THERE'S CELL REPROGRAMMING, AND CONTROL STUDIES OF FUNCTIONAL DIFFERENTIATION.
ONE DEVELOPMENT AFTER ANOTHER...
ひえっ
WHOA.
HOLD IT, WAIT- WAIT- WAIT- WAIT-
SFX: WOW
LIKE I COULD UNDERSTAND SUCH COMPLICATED STUFF?!
WHO CARES IF YOU DO?
ひぇ
!
WELL, RIO-SENSEI, LET'S GET DOWN TO THE DETAILS...
ぴゃっ
HM?
?
SFX: HIDE

SFX: STARING...
じっ...
.....
SFX: HESITANTLY...
おず...
... Hey...
That young man there...
he's not a researcher ...?
Young ?!
EH?
EEEH ?!!
WHAT?
Um
ガー

... OH, IF YOU'RE CONCERNED, YOU NEEDN'T BE.
Talk-...
Talking about research stuff
in front of a non-researcher ...
... HM?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
... SHE'S AFRAID?
AH, SENSEI.
ONE OF THE FEATURES WE HAVE AT EIGHTH IS THAT WE'VE PUT IN PLACE "SECURITY GUARDS".
IN SHORT, THEY PROTECT THE RE-SEARCHERS AND THEIR RESEARCH.

THE GUY THERE IS ONE OF THOSE GUARDS.
THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT THEY ARE INVOLVED IN ACTUAL RESEARCH.
I can't even understand what you're saying
.....
ALSO,

HE'LL PROTECT YOU AT THE RISK OF HIS OWN LIFE.
ER...
Did you just raise a weird flag?!

I AM APPOINTING THIS GUY TO BE YOUR PERSONAL ESCORT.
Escort ...
Why is this the first I'm hearing this?
Eh-

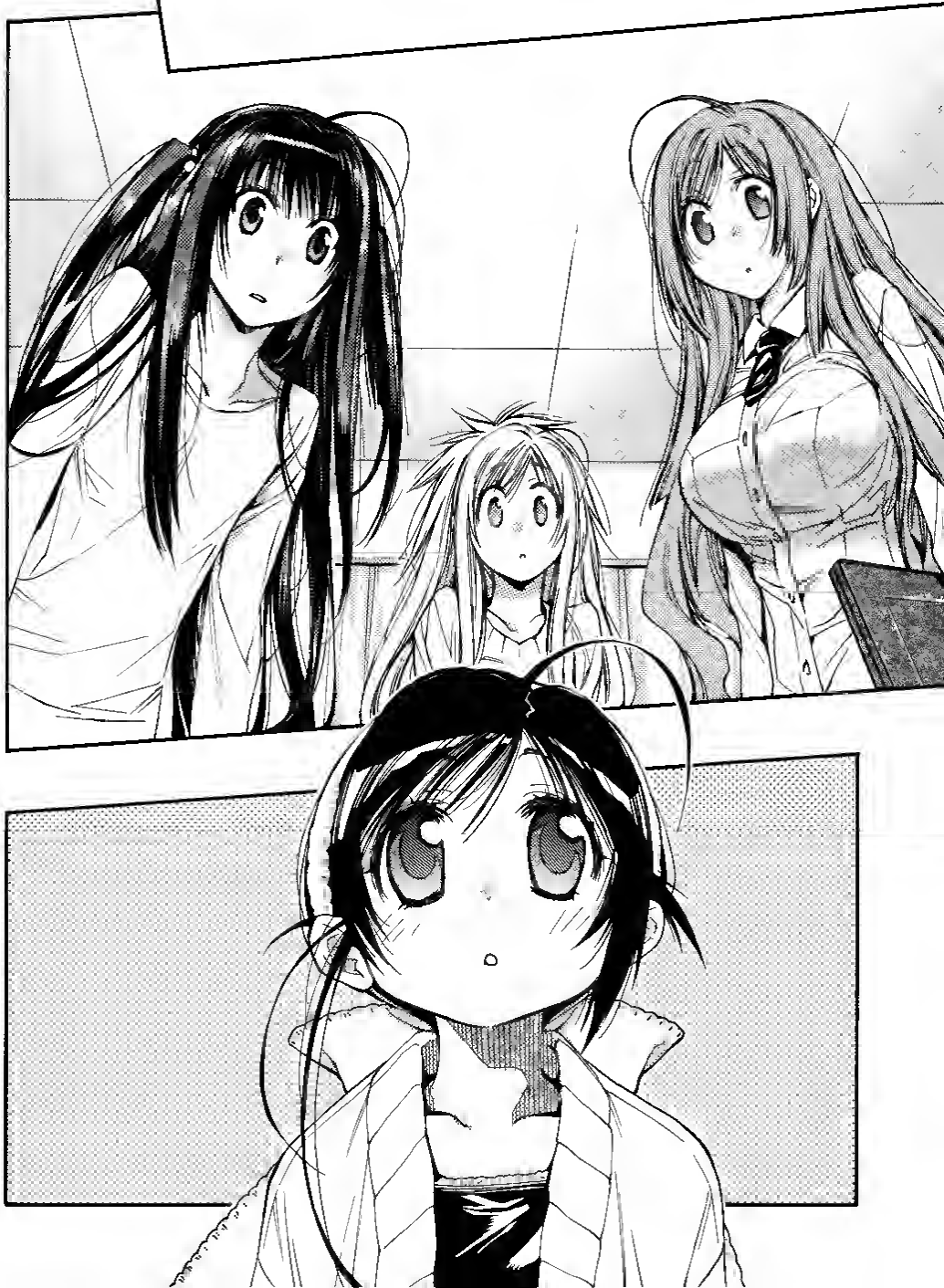
YUP.
... Escort?
BUT
SORRY FOR NOT BEING A RESEARCHER,
AND SO
ANYTHING, ANYTIME, PLEASE TELL ME.
NO,
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED DONE...

!
IF IT'S POSSIBLE...
LET'S GET ALONG WELL PLEASE.
Get along...!!!
L-
お
お
お
お。。。

Um,
it's okay to get along well?!
Is it true?! Is it real?!
EH?!
SFX: BWAAAH-
?
HUH...?
EH
OF COURSE...
Yaaaaay
SFX: KYAAA
I'm so happy—!
Yes, please let's really get along.
AH, SAME HERE.
What will we do? What will we play?
ER, WHATEVER YOU LIKE?

...Um
Are you at Eisu Research?
Of course.
Always?
Yep.
Um... you mind if we talk business first?
Chief, are you going bald?
This is up high
So sorry, but I can't see it!
What's to be sorry about?
SFX: KYAA KYAA
SFX: YAAAAY

... Is it easier to do research at Eisu than at a university?
Chief-san,
4TH LAB ALSO DEALS WITH FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH, BUT,
CONVERSELY, WE WANT YOU TO AIM FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH.
AS WE ARE A PRIVATE COMPANY, WE HAVE TO UNDERTAKE BUSINESS.
Yah.
I wanna hurry up and put it into practice.
I wanna go see Eisu!



I am Rio Tennouji!
Welcome to Eighth.
Oh, what a cute sensei.
SO TIIII-NYYY!
SFX: KYAAA
I'M HIKARU. LET'S GET ALONG, RIO.
I'M CELCIA.
Please let's get along well!
Yah!
Yah
SHE'S SO CUTE♡
Uwaaa
SOOO CUUUUU-UUUTE!
UWAAAA! YAAAA!
SFX: KYAAA

So...
So this is the "Room for beauties and young ladies"?!
SFX: HEY!
What kinda room is that?
IT'S MY ROOM.
Yes! I'm here too♡
EH- WHAT?
I'm 8 years old!
HOW OLD ARE YOU, RIO?
WOW.
Really?
And just now from what I said you thought I was moving in too, didn't you?
Ah, he's cute that cute.
SFX: POKE POKE POKE POKE

I'm specially allowed...
AWESOME! YOU DO GENETIC RESEARCH AT THAT AGE?
Yah!
wow
SFX: STARE...
?
OH, HE'S FINE. THINK OF HIM AS JUST DECORATION.
If you make her cry, you're going to get seriously whacked!
... LUCA,
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
IF YOU WEREN'T HERE WHILE I WAS OUT, I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
... HEY, RIO.

OH
!
Um... with iPSCs... um... well...
...Ah
Eh...
WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DO YOU DO?
HEY, AREN'T THERE A LOT OF THINGS TO DO WITH GENETIC RESEARCH?
IPSCS?
"INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS", RIGHT!
That's what it is...
Yah!
To put it in more detail, it's a cell that's returned to an undifferentiated state!

UNDIF-
FERENTI-
ATED?
ビクッ
... UM...
SORRY,
BUT
WHAT'S
THAT?
HMM
I WONDER
HOW TO
EXPLAIN
IT.
You
know
about
it, huh,
Hikaru?
WELL
THAT'S
ABOUT
AS FAR
AS I
KNOW.
.....
... I'm
sorry...
EH?
ぽっ
WHY
ARE YOU
APOLO-
GIZING
ABOUT
HOW TO
EXPLAIN
IPSCS?

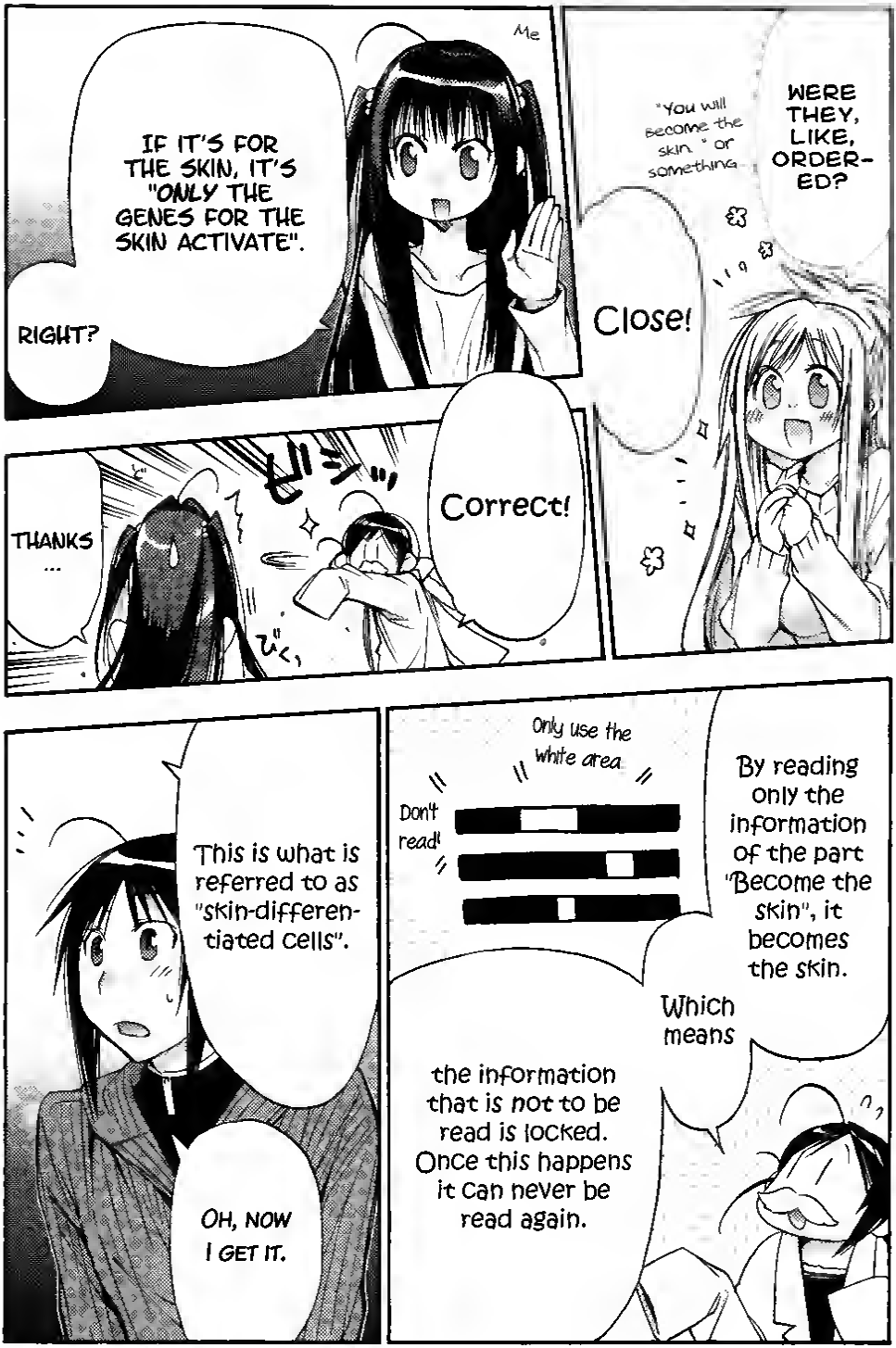
I'M SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR DISCUSSION...
No, um,
AH...
OH
.....
SFX: FIDGETING...
I just jumped in and started talking to everyone without considering all of you!
I, um,
Onee-san, you're not in the wrong!
Ehe...
Which is...
why I...
don't have any friends...
No, well, it's fine. We have a lot of work to do together.
!

... Again.
I did it again...
I'm so sorry...
... Rio.
Rio!
No, you're wrong.
Everyone wants to get along well with you!
!
Go ahead and say it and don't worry.
... Eh?
Every-one's in-terested ...?!
Of course. I mean,
Celcia is listening.
SFX: Whoaaa...!

...SORRY.
WHAT IT IS YOU DO .?
WILL YOU TEACH ME?
Yah!
ぽへ
PLAY SENSEI, RIO.
Play Sensei!!
おおお
お
SHEESH, SHE IS A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR...

SFX: OOOOH

Genes are the blueprints!
People have ↗6 billion genes
The human body produces all kinds of cells!
Ummm-mmm...
Cell
Nucleus
Chromo-some
Genome
Genes
And each and every cell has the same genes inside.
EH
Cell
Liver
Mass
Skin
Heart
Bone
But stuff like skin and internal organs have different form and function, right?
So if they have the same genes inside, why would that be?
Yah, that's right.
Ho-ho-ho
EVERY ONE IS THE SAME?
Wow


Me
IF IT'S FOR THE SKIN, IT'S "ONLY THE GENES FOR THE SKIN ACTIVATE".
RIGHT?
WERE THEY, LIKE, ORDERED?
"You will become the skin." or something
Close!
Correct!
THANKS ...
This is what is referred to as "skin-differentiated cells".
OH, NOW I GET IT.
Only use the white area
Don't read!
By reading only the information of the part "Become the skin", it becomes the skin.
Which means
the information that is not to be read is locked. Once this happens it can never be read again.

It has been said that you absolutely cannot unwind differentiated cells.
At first there were 4,
now there are three ways via virus vectors to get inside certain genes
Yamanaka Factors
Oct3/4
Sox2
klf4
Myc
Differentiated
Undifferentiated
Readable!!
and accomplish it.
This is an "iPS Cell"!
It's simple!
Put simply, the cell returns to an unlocked state.
Once they are differentiated, returning them to an undifferentiated state...
Yah!
THEN "UNDIFFERENTIATED" IS WHAT THEY ARE BEFORE THEY BECOME SKIN?

Next we can make it into all kinds of cells!!
Good question!!
Ohhh
AHA... AND... HOW ARE IPSCs ACCOMPLISHED? WITH SKIN CELLS?
?

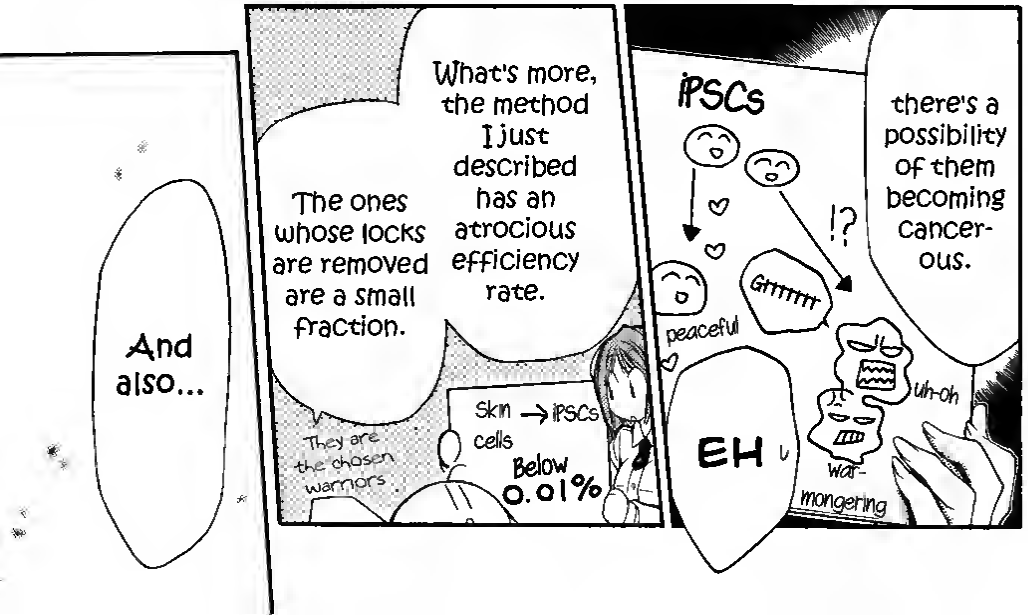
SFX: SMILE

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SKIN IT BECOMES SOMETHING ELSE?!
Huh?
EH?!

WE CAN JUST CHANGE "WHERE IT READS".
SINCE ALL THE INFORMATION IS IN THE GENES,
THAT'S WHY THE LOCKS WERE REMOVED IN THE FIRST PLACE, RIGHT?
Eh

Oooh
I see ...
We can prepare the cells we need just from the person's own genes.
There is no rejection reaction.
Skin Cells
iPSCs
Differentiated
Liver
Nerves
Others
Yah, we call that "induction"!

The biggest is that they're not safe. Actually...
Sad face
Still, there are problems with iPSCs.

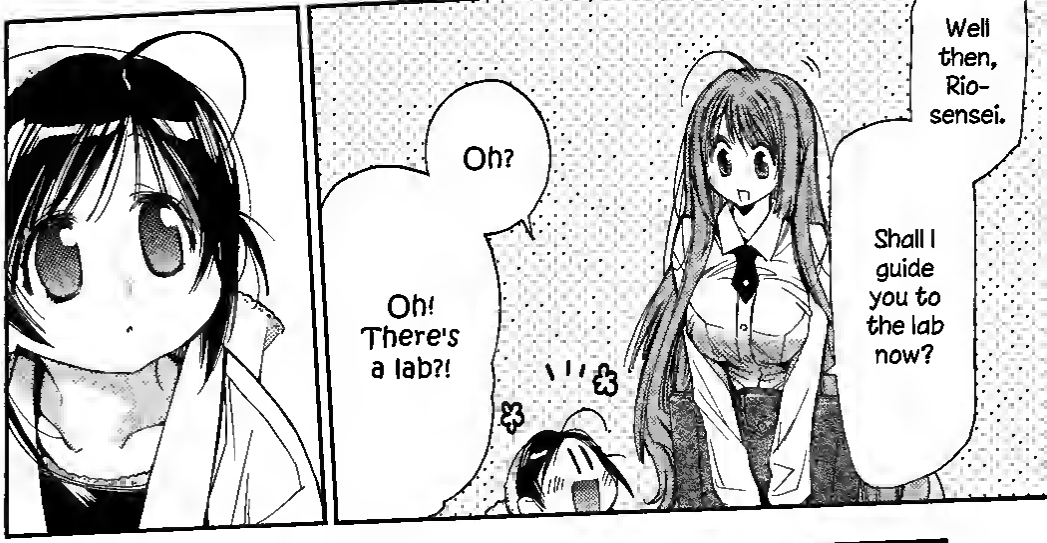

And also...
They are the chosen warriors.
The ones whose locks are removed are a small fraction.
What's more, the method I just described has an atrocious efficiency rate.
Skin → iPSCs cells
Below 0.01%
iPSCs
peaceful
Grrrrrr
!?
EH
there's a possibility of them becoming cancerous.
Uh-oh
war-mongering

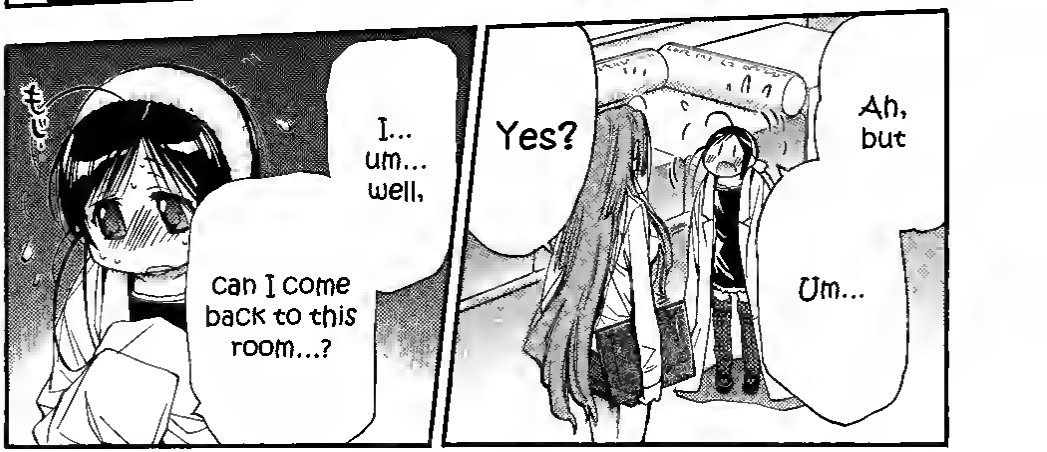
It takes a lot of time.
ぎゅっ
!
To do the iPSC process takes a month.
From there, differentiating the cells takes another month.

That can't be changed!
O-Onee-san, are you okay?
Your face looks
あわわわ
Was it too difficult? I'm sorry, I'll stop.
...
AH
SFX: AWAWAWA
はっ！
.....
SFX: GASP
NO, NOT AT ALL. IT'S FINE. DON'T STOP.
IT WASN'T DIFFICULT. I UNDERSTOOD IT EASILY.
I JUST THOUGHT IT'S REALLY SERIOUS.

O...
Onee-san, you're so nice!
!
I am...
I am researching the "reprogramming" of iPS cells and the "differentiation induction" of them.
All that I said just now was the foundation of the technology, and all of it was created by my senpais.

And now they're forging ahead even more.
I too will think about lots of good methods!
ペコ
A moment, if you please.
Thank you very much for your concern.


Well then, Rio-sensei.
Shall I guide you to the lab now?
Oh?
Oh! There's a lab?!


Ah, but
Um...
Yes?
I... um... well,
Can I come back to this room...?

SFX: FIDGET...

WHY DID YOU SAY THAT WITHOUT EVEN PAUSING?
Yes, this is the room you will live in, so you will return here.
Whoa
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A FORMALITY, HOW ABOUT ASKING?
HEY.
HM?
beep
It's a recording from Chief's phone.
... What are you doing for housing for that Sensei?
Hi!
For the time being, we have her in the Children's Room.
I think that will be perfectly fine for Rio-sensei.
Yeah.
beep

You understand the situation, right...?
ゴゴゴ…
IT'S MY ROOM AND I DON'T EVEN GET A WORD IN?
I'D HEARD TALK OF A CHILDREN'S ROOM, BUT...
That means...
SFX: GRRR...
SFX: *SNAP*...
WELL, THAT'S FINE.
HAVE A GOOD TRIP TO THE LAB. WE'LL BE WAITING.
!
WE'LL GET ALONG, RIO-SAN.

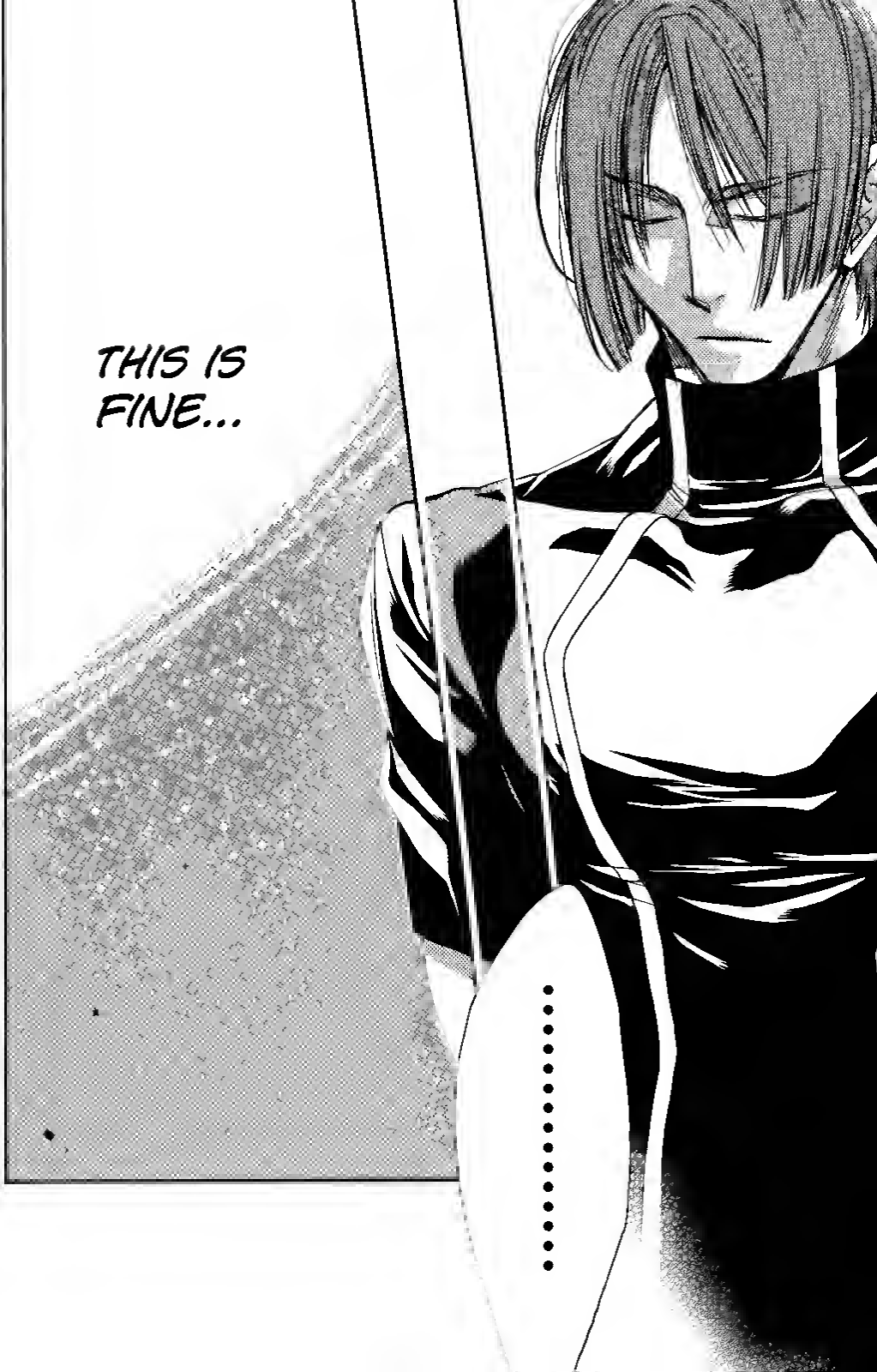
WOW
It's state of the art, huh
?!?
iPad
I have this because bookstore too heavy for me
It's really useful for academic papers.
Mochi

Yah!
Let's really get along
SFX: WOWIEEEE
WELL!

Golden hair

They've been working too hard, huh?

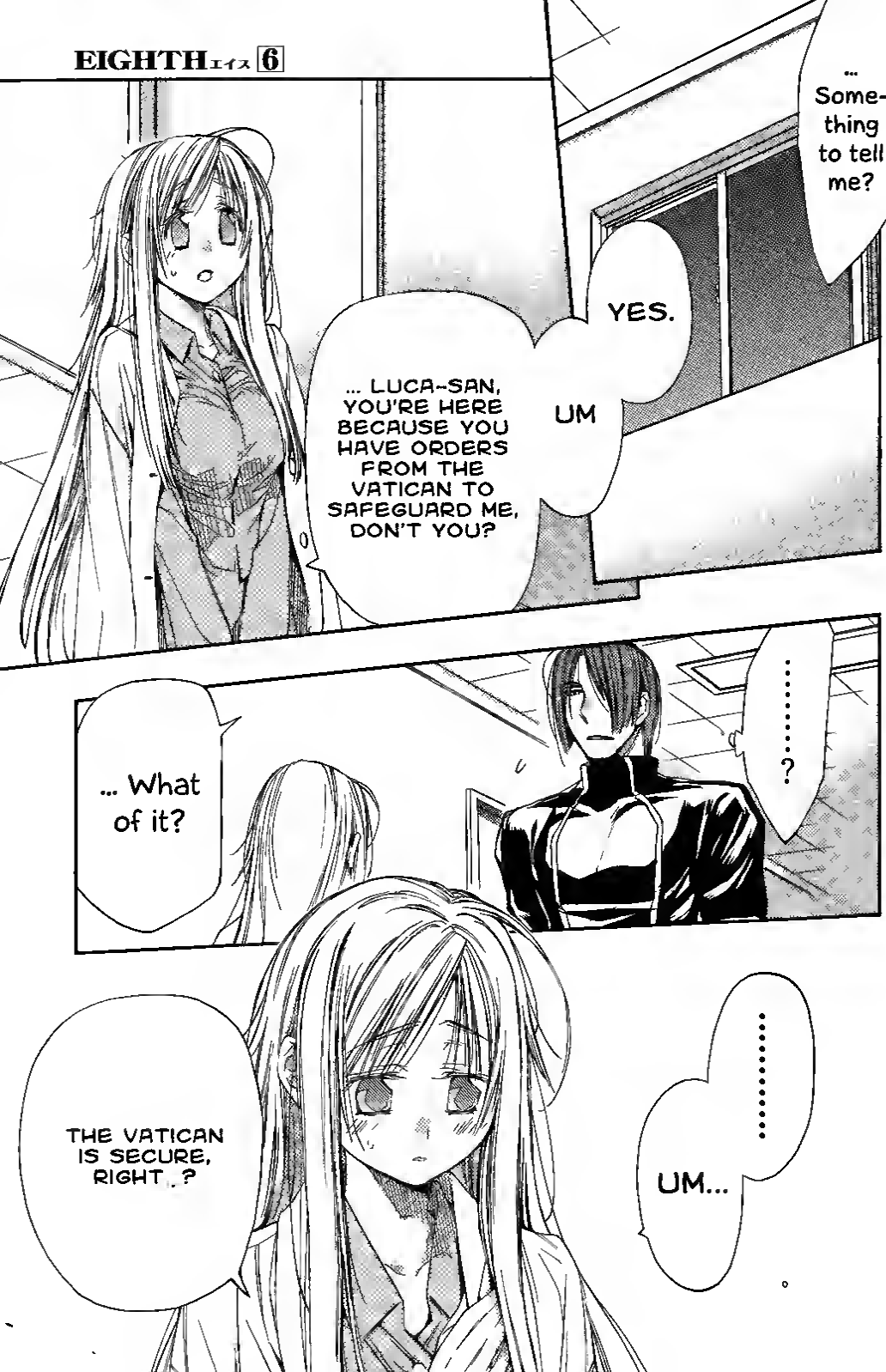
Eh, seriously?!
The 'i' in iPSC is the same 'i' as in iPOD, you know!
Seriously
SFX: HEYYY


THIS IS FINE...
.....

スタスタ
tap
……
スタスタ
…LUCA-SAN,

COME HERE...
.....
.....
.....
UM
... LUCA-SAN.
Go to sleep, and worry not.
... Return at once.

...WELL,
PLEASE EXCUSE THIS.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU.


... Something to tell me?
YES.
UM
... LUCA-SAN, YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU HAVE ORDERS FROM THE VATICAN TO SAFEGUARD ME, DON'T YOU?
.....?
... What of it?
.....
UM...
THE VATICAN IS SECURE, RIGHT...?

IF, BECAUSE OF MY ABILITY,
SOMEONE FROM THERE CAME HERE, WOULDN'T THERE BE FIGHTING?

....
What?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I...
I WANT TO GO TO THE VATICAN.

...
Why?
Why do you want to go to the Vatican?
Why have you made this decision so suddenly?
.....
I'VE BEEN WATCHING RIO-SAN...
... AND I'VE REMEMBERED A LOT OF THINGS.
I'M SCARED...

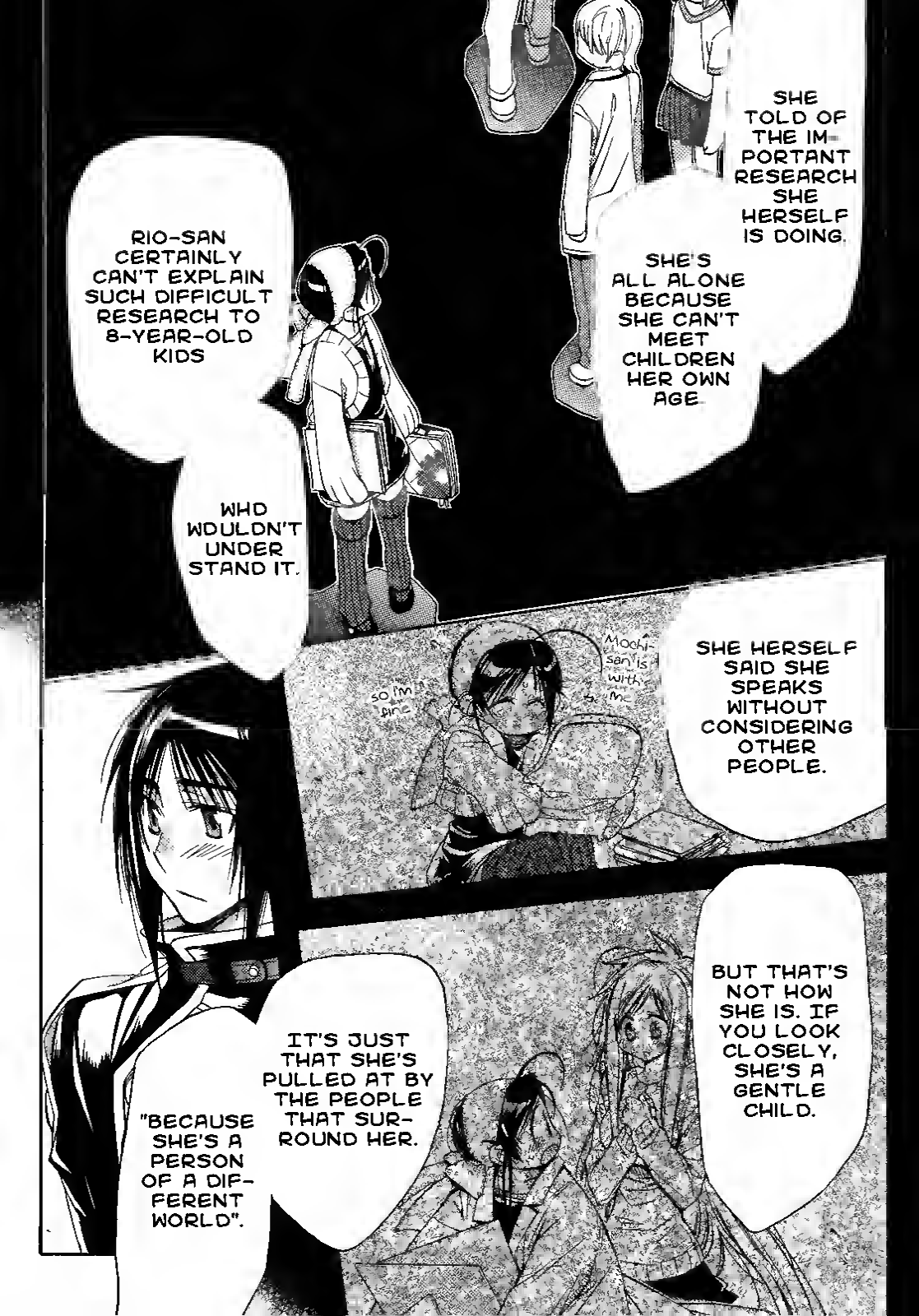
NOTHING HAS HAPPENED SINCE I CAME TO EIGHTH, BUT
I THINK
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN
IT WOULD BE SCARY.
IF I THINK ABOUT THAT LITTLE GIRL BEING HERE...
CELCIA!
……
ダッ

NAOYA...
!
WHY DID YOU GO OUTSIDE?!
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
... LUCA, TOO.
女...
BOTH OF YOU, RETURN TO THE ROOM.
C'MON, NOW.
I AM ON PATROL.
What?

!
ゼカ…
It was in the research building,
but they said there was a suspicious person...
Ah... no.
That kind of thing happens from time to time. We just haven't identified him. It's not a big deal.
Even so, come back inside. You're visible to the outside...
...Naoya, that's enough.
Eh?
I...
am thinking of leaving Eighth.

N... NO- NO- NO.
I MEAN, THAT SUSPICIOUS PERSON DOESN'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
DON'T YOU UNDER- STAND?
I CAN'T DRAG RIO-SAN INTO THIS.
...!
HUH?
NOW JUST HOLD ON A...
QUIET!
IF PEOPLE WERE TO FIGHT OVER ME...
I MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT...
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT TO RIO-SAN!

NO, IT'S NOT!
Yes, ma'am.
SFX: URK
TH-THAT'S-
NO... IS THAT THE PROBLEM?
... So we'll split up the room.
AS FOR RIO-SAN,
.....
SHE SHOULD BE IN NAOYA'S ROOM.
RIO-SAN IS REALLY SMART...


SHE TOLD OF THE IMPORTANT RESEARCH SHE HERSELF IS DOING.
SHE'S ALL ALONE BECAUSE SHE CAN'T MEET CHILDREN HER OWN AGE
RIO-SAN CERTAINLY CAN'T EXPLAIN SUCH DIFFICULT RESEARCH TO 8-YEAR-OLD KIDS
WHO WDULDN'T UNDER STAND IT.
SHE HERSELF SAID SHE SPEAKS WITHOUT CONSIDERING OTHER PEOPLE.
Mochi-san is with me
so I'm fine
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW SHE IS. IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, SHE'S A GENTLE CHILD.
IT'S JUST THAT SHE'S PULLED AT BY THE PEOPLE THAT SURROUND HER.
"BECAUSE SHE'S A PERSON OF A DIFFERENT WORLD".

THAT'S WHY
I NEED YOU TO REALLY UNDERSTAND. SHE NEEDS TO BE WITH NAOYA AND HIKARU-SAN... PEOPLE CLOSE TO HER AGE.
WHAT RIO-SAN NEEDS
ARE FRIENDS.

...
THEN
YOU
TOO...
... AREN'T
YOU THE
SAME...?
CELCIA...
IF YOU TWO
INDEED CALL
YOURSELVES
"GUAROS",
THEN I
REQUEST,
SOMEHOW...

SOMEHOW
...
PROTECT
RIO-SAN.

04
EIGHTH

TL: Castellan
Typesetter: TKS
Cleaner: Zack
PR/QC: Juubun

READ ONLINE AT HTTP://READER.JAPANZAI.COM
DOWNLOAD FROM HTTP://DOWNLOAD.JAPANZAI.COM

Operation.22 Quality of Life,

③ You Are So Very Important

ONE, TWO,
UP!
Whoaaa
Onii-chan, you're sooo cool!!
A back-flip!
NAHHH
SFX: HEH

ズイッ
HEY!
Ah- hey... Can you do a somersault?!
OKAY, I'LL DO IT!
SFX: GLARE
Hmm
GOOD QUES-TION.
What can we play then?
We got scold-ed.
DO THAT OUTSIDE!
CHORUS: YES MA'AAAAM
HI-
HIKARU-SAN!
I SWEAR, GEEZ...
Lets arm-wrestle
Yah!
Bring it on!

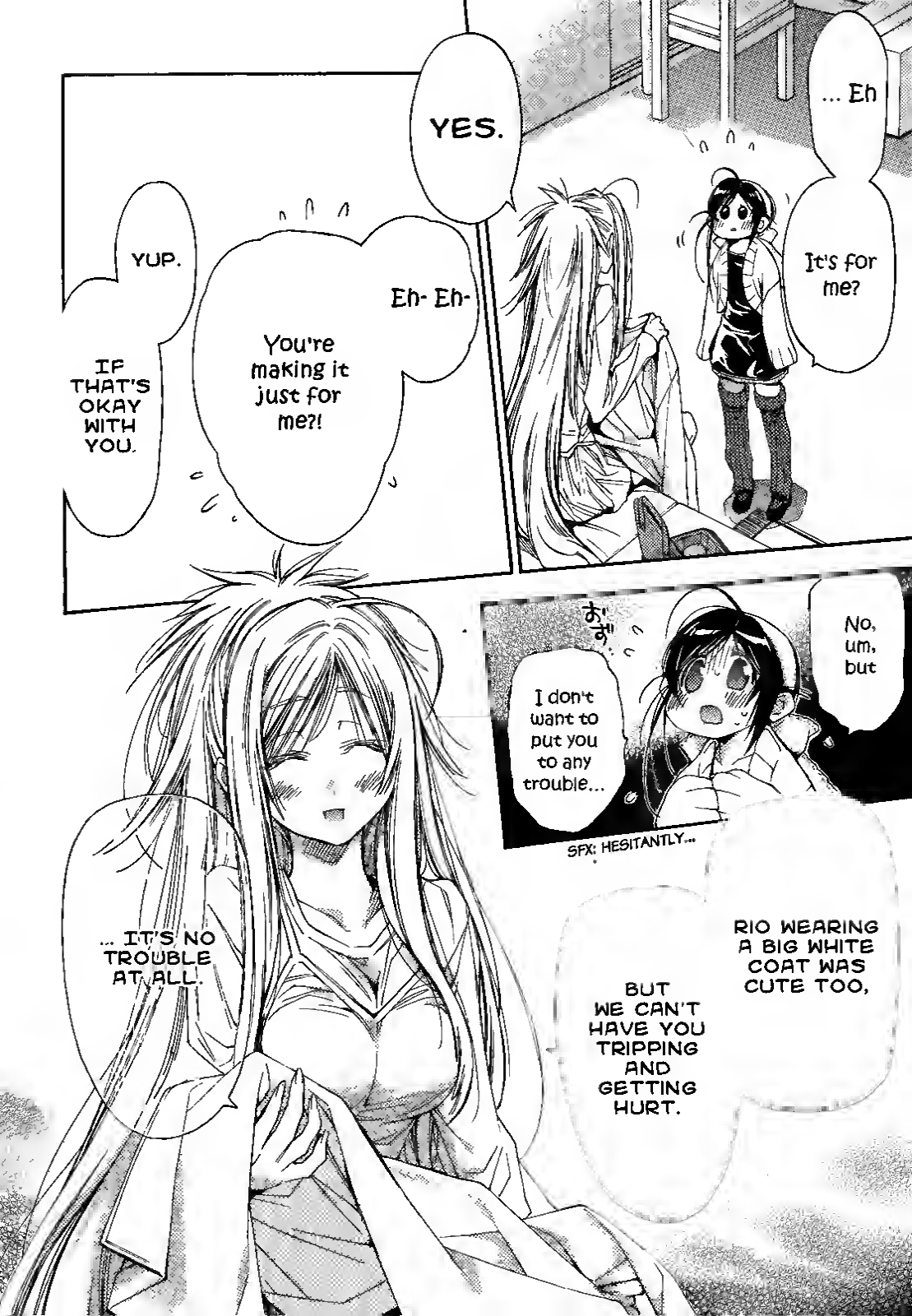
WHAT?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
IT SEEMS I'VE RUN OUT OF THREAD.
A French knot
THEN LET'S TIE IT OFF ONCE HERE.
THEN WE JUST PUT A NEW THREAD THROUGH THE NEEDLE...
ニヂ ニヂ ニヂ
.....
SFX: NERVOUS ANXIOUS ABOUT-TO-PANIC
UH OH
AH...
OW!

TN: MAKIRON: JAPANESE BRAND OF ANTISEPTIC. A VERY OLD AND TRUSTED BRAND.

But
Onee-san is really working as hard as she can...
fidget
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER YOURSELF?
.....
MMM...
YES?
ぴょん
NOW, NOW...
CELCIA—
おおお
SFX: OOOH
SFX: LIFTS HER UP
NOT AT ALL... YOU'RE NOT INTERRUPTING.
I'M SEWING.
Whoa
What are you making?
Sor-
RIO-SENSEI IS ASKING WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
S-S-
Sorry for interrupting you!

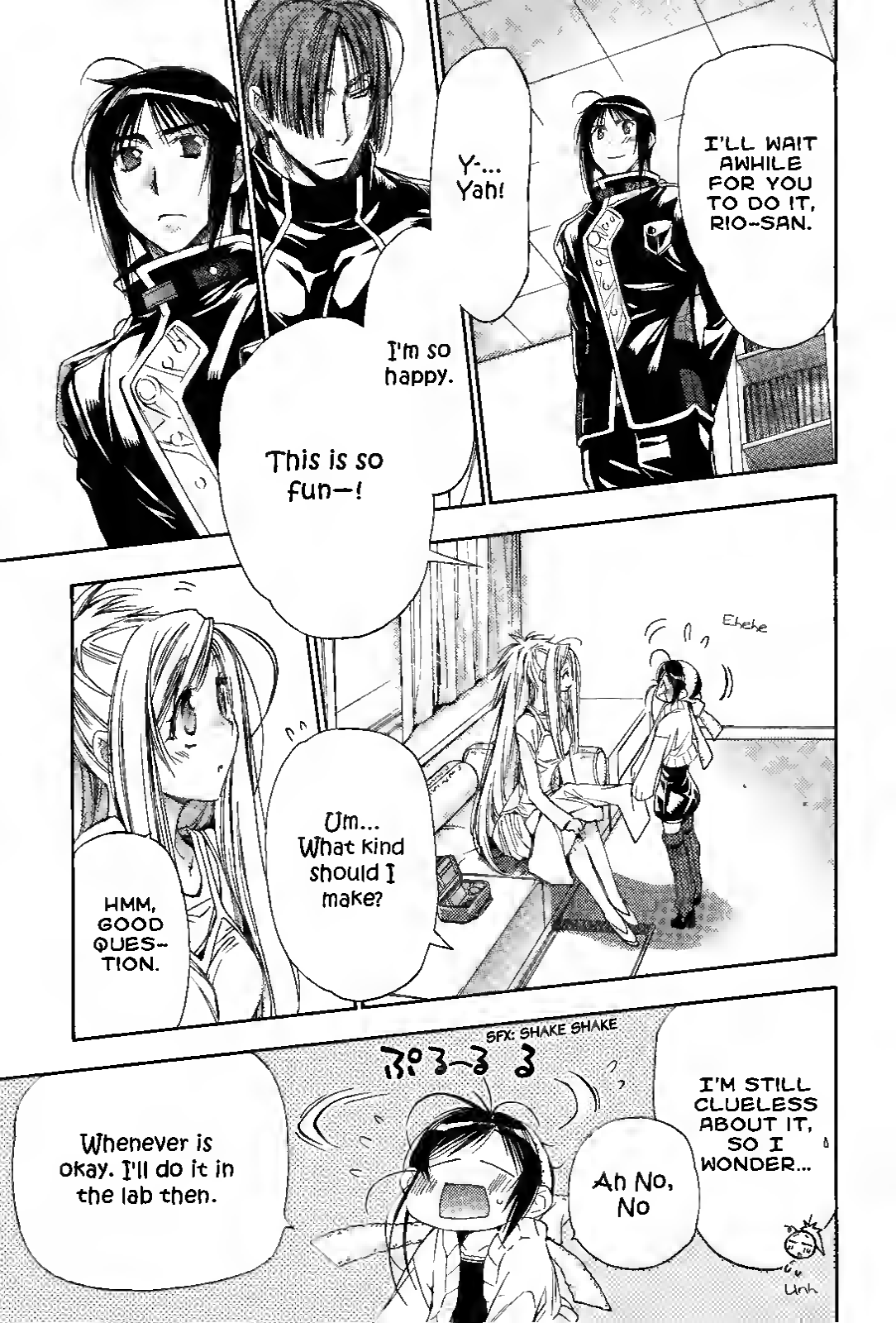
Whoa, how precious!
A white coat!
I HEARD THERE WEREN'T ANY WHITE COATS FOR CHILDREN.
A WHITE COAT
.....
I'M FIXING AN ADULT-SIZED ONE FOR A CHILD TO WEAR.
YUP!
So that means... You're making it for a child!
WHAT ?!?!
どーん
Eh?! Onee-san, you have a child?!

... HEY, YOU GUYS.
WHICH ONE OF YOU WAS IT ...?!
Eh
Er
WHADDAYA MEAN, WHICH ONE?!!
* HEY, NOW!
NO, NO, THIS HERE
IS A WHITE COAT FOR RIO-SENSEI♡
SFX: EH HEH


... Eh
It's for me?
YES.
Eh- Eh-
You're making it just for me?!
YUP.
IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU.
No, um, but
I don't want to put you to any trouble...
おず
SFX: HESITANTLY...
... IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
BUT WE CAN'T HAVE YOU TRIPPING AND GETTING HURT.
RIO WEARING A BIG WHITE COAT WAS CUTE TOO,

Ohhh
How nice, Rio-sensei.
Ah
Um
Oh
Yah
Yah!
SFX: NOD NOD NOD
Th....
SFX: TONGUE-TIED...
Thank you very much...
Aaah. But there's a problem, Onii-san.
EH
SFX: GASP
CRY: OH NOOO!
I-I-I don't have anything to give in return!!
EH?!
No...
Ah! That's right.

I'll present you with iPS cells I made!
EH
EH
SFX: KYAAA
In a sense
Well
Eer, real?
There's that at least
Oh
Th-That's right, huh...?
SFX: OHHH
IF YOU CAN AT LEAST SHOW UNDER A MICROSCOPE, SHE'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS.
...WHICH MEANS
Again...
N-No!!
I-I'm sorry, I don't have anything.
SFX: BLUSH


I'LL WAIT AWHILE FOR YOU TO DO IT, RIO-SAN.
Y-... Yah!
I'm so happy.
This is so fun—!
Ehehe
Um... What kind should I make?
HMM, GOOD QUES-TION.
SFX: SHAKE SHAKE
I'M STILL CLUELESS ABOUT IT, SO I WONDER...
Ah No, No
Whenever is okay. I'll do it in the lab then.
Unh

Had enough of a break?
It's about time for the experiment results to appear,
so I need to go back soon.
Yah!
Hm
Naoya-onii-san,
let's go to the lab.
Then I'll leave the rest to you,
Hikaru.
Yup, yup.
See you later.
We're off!
.....

CELCIA,
SFX: NERVOUS ANXIOUS
Okaay!
I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND FINISH!
TAKE CARE WITH YOUR SEWING.
IT'S OKAY TO TAKE YOUR TIME.
... WE CAN'T HAVE CELCIA GETTING HURT NOW, CAN WE?
Naoya-onii-san.

Kindergarten
YEAH.
My size doesn't fit well in a research lab.
YEAH?
Instead of a white coat, I use a smock to get work done.
To tell the truth
... I'll be glad when I'm an adult.
Um
Well

... That's why I'm really happy.
SFX: EH HEH...

I'll put everything I have and more into research!
IS THAT SO? ME TOO.

Ehehe
I'm so glad I came to Eighth...!

I'M HAPPY YOU WANT SO MUCH TO BE A GROWN-UP WOMAN.
gasp
Really ...?!
REALLY REALLY.
SFX: WHOAAA

WHAT?
RIO TENNOUJI IS AT EIGHTH?!
ASTRAEA COM-PANY—

I'M SO TERRIBLY SORRY.
I DIDN'T THINK THEY COULD POSSIBLY MOVE THAT QUICKLY.
IT SEEMS THEY WERE INTRODUCED BY A JAPANESE DOCTOR ALREADY AT EIGHTH.
LURE HER OUT.
EVEN IF SHE'S A GENIUS, SHE'S JUST ONE CHILD.
WRONG.
FROM JUST ONE R&D THESIS YOU'LL UNDERSTAND. THAT IS NOT TYPICAL INSIGHT.
AND IF YOU CAN'T LURE HER OUT OF THERE, CARRY HER OUT.

... AT EIGHTH, THE RESEARCHERS HAVE GUARDS ON THEM.
IT MAY BE DIFFICULT WITHOUT GETTING ROUGH.
IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
THERE'S NO CHOICE. GO.
UNDERSTOOD.
WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT SUGGESTS SHE WAS AT EIGHTH, SOMEHOW.
... ALSO, ABOUT "CELCIA".
WHAT?!

... HOLD IT.
... WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WAS"?!
WHEN WE FIRST BEGAN THE INVESTI-GATION AT EIGHTH
A VATICAN MILITARY GUARDSMAN WAS SEEN.
HE STAYED FOR A WHILE, BUT THAT MAN IS NO LONGER AT EIGHTH.
.....
... IF CELCIA WAS AT EIGHTH,
WHY DIDN'T THEIR OP-ERATIONAL RESULTS CHANGE?
IN FACT, IF THEY PUT HER TOGETHER WITH RIO TENNOUJI, IT'D BE SOMETHING NICE.
I DON'T GET YOUR MEAN-ING.
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK DE-VELOPMENT WOULD ADVANCE?
IT TAKES MONEY.
REGARD-LESS...
THE PROBABILITY THAT CELCIA WENT TO THE VATICAN IS HIGH.

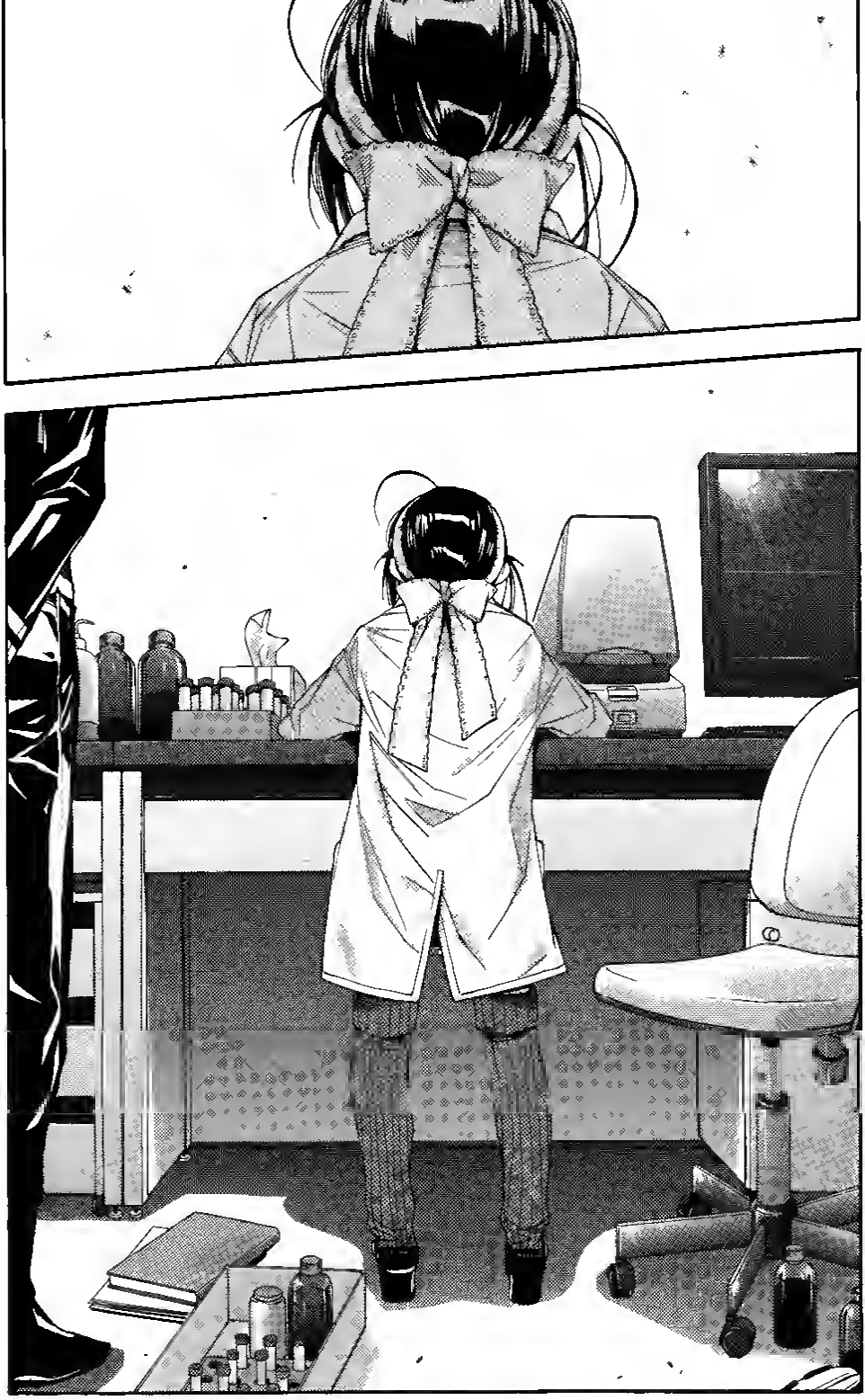
EIGHTH RE-SEARCH
RETRIEV-ING HER WILL BE DIFFI-CULT.
... A SUSPI-CIOUS PERSON?
Yes.
The discussion lost week. No domoge done.
LAST WEEK?
WHY ARE YOU REPORTING IT NOW?

If it were normal, I wouldn't report it to you in this fashion.
In this matter, we have been unable to determine the person's identity at all.
For now.
How should we proceed?
Hmpf.
... WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
I'LL LEAVE IT TO THE COMMANDER OF THE GUARDS.
Shall I continue the investigation?
AH, YEAH.
IT'S FINE AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T BECOME A HINDRANCE ...
Ch-
SFX: SLAM!
Chief!
HM?

MARI ...
Excuse me, Chief.
Would you come with me a moment?
The 4th's iPSC Development Section is calling.
HUH? IPSC?

Rio-sensei is... well...

Her developments are proceeding at a breakneck pace.
Other staff members can't keep up with all the material.



04
EIGHTH

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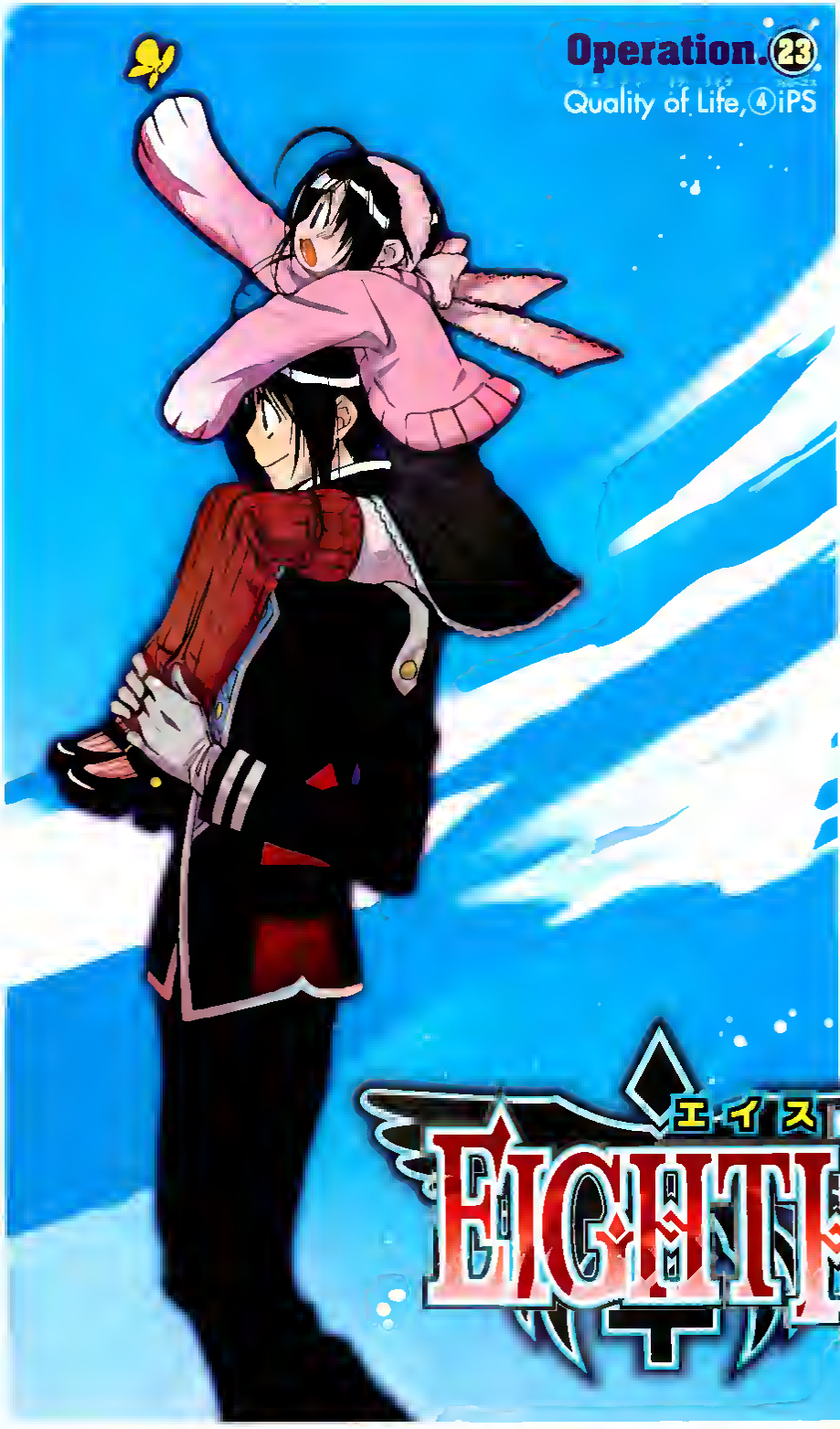
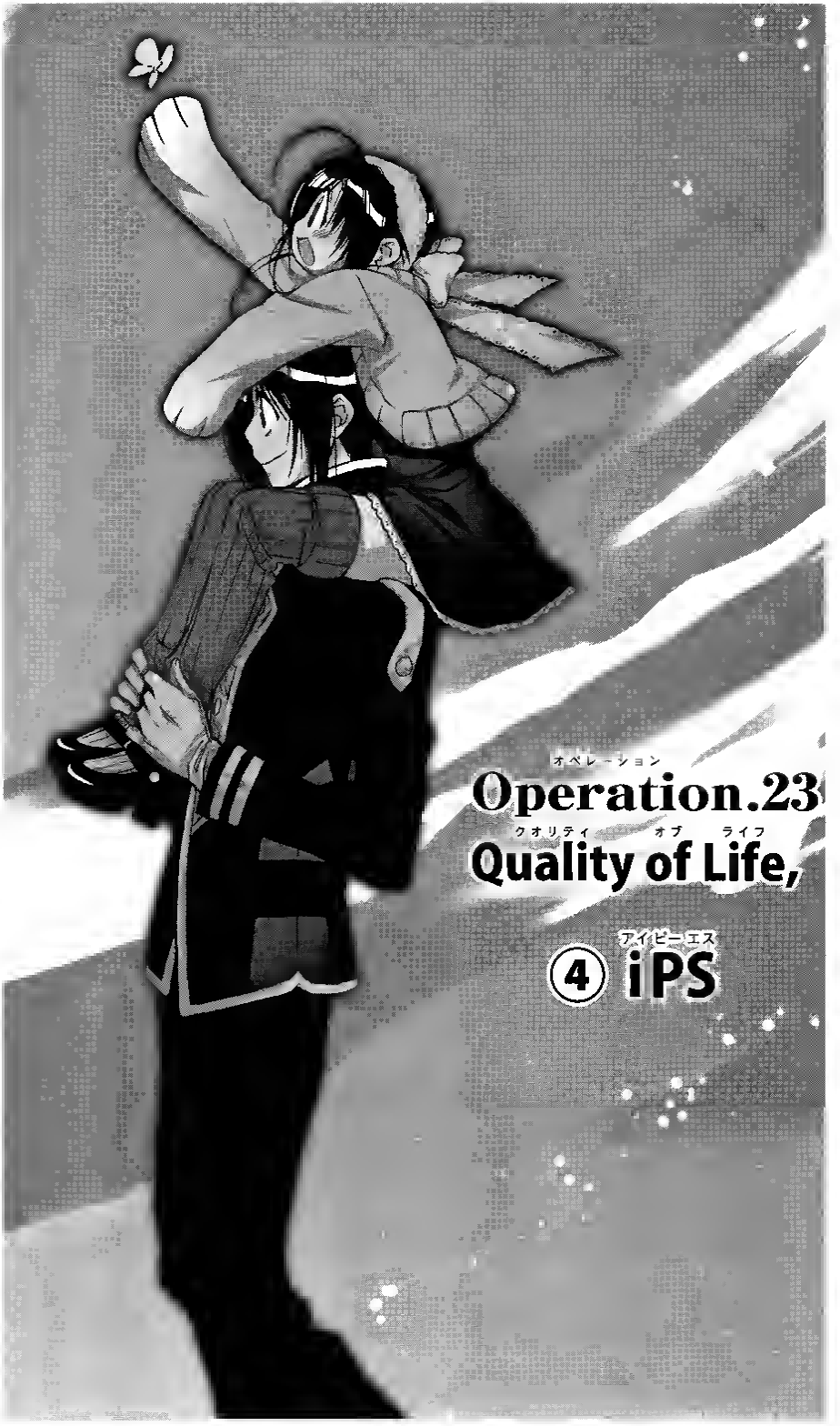

Operation.23
Quality of Life, ④iPS
エイス
EIGHTH



Operation.23 Quality of Life,

④ iPS

Her combat uniform
from way back when...

Others can hardly move around in here
Well that's normal
Naoya-kun!
THE PLACE IS A MESS.
...WHOA NOW.
CHIEF, MARI-SAN...
RIO-SENSEI—

HERE'S A WHITE COAT.
RIO-SAN,
Waah
It's what you made for me!
Thank you so very much!!
SFX: GLOMP
SFX: WOWIE
...RIO-SAN.
YOU KNOW, I-
THERE'S A PLACE I HAVE TO GO TO

... Yah?
I HAVE TO
LEAVE EIGHTH
... Eh...
THAT WHITE COAT IS TO THANK YOU FOR BECOMING MY FRIEND.
IT WAS A SHORT TIME, BUT...
Eh

Er
Serushia-onee-san, you're going somewhere?
YEAH.
Eh?
Um
Eh?
Er, um
Why...?
Um...
... Uh

... Is it...
Is it because I've come to this room...?
!
I'm very sorry... um...
I'm in the way, aren't I?
Awawawawa
That's fine. I know I'm always saying strange stuff.
NO...

THAT'S NOT IT, RIO-SAN!
IT'S SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.
I REALLY LIKE YOU, RIO-SAN!
I HAVE A BIT OF BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
THAT'S ALL.
... R-
Really?
REALLY.

Yah
RIO-SAN, I THINK YOUR RESEARCH IS WONDERFUL.
I'M SURE THAT SO MANY PEOPLE GOING THROUGH THE HAROSHIPS OF OISEASE WILL BE SAVEO.
Um
IT IS AN HONOR TO HAVE A FRIEND LIKE THIS.
I still don't have it yet...
But
Um
I'll work hard!
Um
Quick-ly

I'll definitely work faster.
I will.
I'll work hard on iPS
No, with everyone at Eighth.
with all the researchers in the world.
Me too.

So until you return, I will.
... YEAH.
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
LUCA-SAN,
.....
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. LET'S GO.
HIKARU-SAN.
!
SFX: GULP

THANK YOU FOR TEACHING ME SO MUCH.
I WON'T FORGET IT.
... WHA-
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? CUT IT OUT.
ROME'S RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET!
THERE'S EMAIL
AND AIRPLANES, AND...
Hey, don't come just to grope her chest...
It's outrageous
I'll come up with some excuse
I WOULDN'T GO JUST FOR THAT REASON!
NAOYA.
SFX: BLUSH
SFX: NERVOUS

IT WAS A LOT OF FUN...!
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.
I'M GLAD I GOT THE COURAGE TO COME HERE TO EIGHTH.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU...!

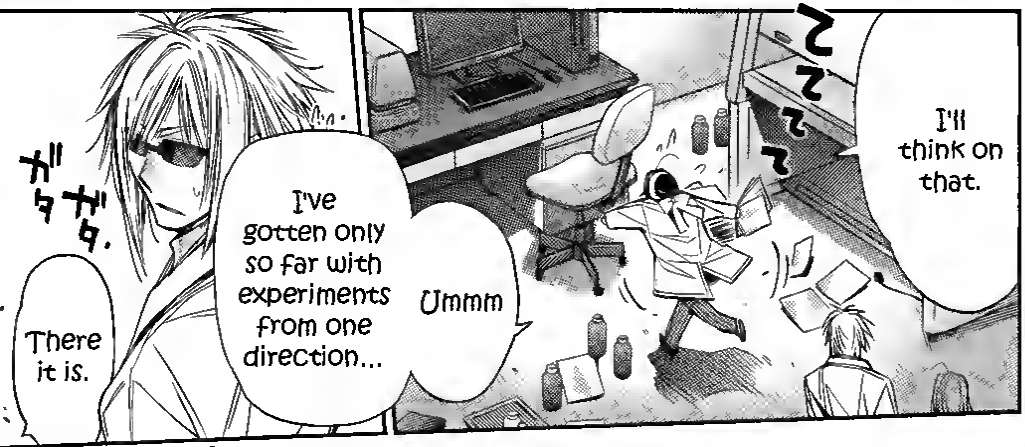
RIO-SENSEI!
Yah!
Please wait just a second.
I'm right in the middle of somethin'.
TAKE YOUR TIME.
I CAN SEE YOU IN ACTION.
SFX: CLUNK
SFX: RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
Oh
Whoa
If it isn't Chief-san!
As handsome and cool as always!!
THANKS
Eh? Handsome?
HOW YOU FEELING? GOOD?
Yah!
I feel great!
scribble
scribble
scribble

Eighth is a great place!
Is it?
There's a drug development department too, so you can make all kinds of chemical compounds.
Everyone's so nice!
They're letting me use all kinds of stuff!
Oh, I see.
She's a charmer.
And I'm getting cooperation from the cell culture development department.
Ay! Here, Chief-san.
I've made some iPS cells!
Well now.
I confirmed that earlier
On the 23rd day
they're iPS cells I made from T-cells in the blood.

Yah
Still, in Japan we have a method to make them in 3 weeks, so it's a bit slow.
Aww I'm not that good.
Whoa...
BLOOD? ... 23RD DAY?
YOU'VE CUT IT DOWN FROM A MONTH?
Oh
But this way has a good success rate!
I made 300 times as many iPSCs as the most recent one.
... HOW DID YOU MAKE THESE "T-CELLS"?
WOW
300 times?!
Well, um... Up till now, cells from within the skin have been used a lot,
But I wondered if there wasn't an easier way to gather them.
No matter how little skin you cut, it'll still be painful for the patients.

Still, it does take time...
しゅん
Hey, that's pretty fast.
No,
It won't hurt!
If we take them from the blood, then it's practically as good as a blood test!

SFX: DEJECTED



SFX: CRASH CLATTER

Umm
I think it would be great if we could just create the cells we want.
I believe there is no need to transition through iPSCs first.
EH?!
Ummm, what I mean is

Skin Cells
iPSC
Change
Other Cells
The genetic lock in skin cells can be directly changed to become other cells.
!
This way doesn't go through iPS.
By a simple calculation, it'll become half the time!
EH
EH?!
I'm discovering a process to change the skin cells on a mouse into heart muscle cells!
I can do it!

Right now I'm seeing whether other cells can be changed.
……
... Hey, Chief.
Just hearing about it, it seems so easy.
Even I'm getting all this
JUST YOU.
SHE'S TALKING ABOUT UNBELIEV-ABLE STUFF.
These are heart muscle cells.
Whoa, it's moving!
Yes, you're right. Sorry.
SFX: WHISPER WHISPER
NAOYA.
IS RIO-SENSEI GETTING ENOUGH REST?
... YES... BUT I TAKE HER BACK TO THE ROOM WITH ME AGAIN AND AGAIN,
ALTHOUGH SHE HAS MANY EXPERIMENTS RUNNING AND SHE JUST COMES RIGHT BACK HERE.

... But especially since Celcia left.
She had this feeling originally.
EIGHTH
RESEAR

Hey, Rio-sensei.
How about you take a bit of a break and leave things to other staff members?
No!
Yah!
I already have the other staff members working together for me.
AAAAAAH!
Too many things to double-check!

I have to get the timing down on how to force the change.
WELL...
It's really fun, so I'm fine.
Naoya-onii-san, I really like your room!
You and Hikaru-onee-san listen to me talk and don't hate it.
I'm so happy.
It makes me wanna do more!
... Plus I made a promise to Serushia-onee-san.

Serushia-onee-san said she just has something to do!
I'm sure she'll be back soon! Luca-onii-san too.
I've gotta hurry this up!
SFX: EHEHE

HEY, HIKA-RUUU.
OH, WELCOME HOME, NAOYA.
SORRY.
GET HER BED READY.
ZZZZZ
GEEZ! WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BACK BEFORE THIS HAP-PENED?!
SORRY, IT WAS RATHER SUDDEN...
HOLD IT A SEC AND I'LL SPREAD THE SHEETS.
Use the sofa for now!
SFX: WHAM CLATTER THUNK

A MOMENT, NAOYA.
THEY'RE NOT OVER-WORKING HER IN THE LAB, ARE THEY?
NO, NO.
EVEN THE CHIEF TOLD HER TO GET SOME REST.
SFX: OOP
... COULD IT BE BECAUSE CELCIA LEFT?
RIO WOULD BE RE-SEARCHING EVEN IF THAT HADN'T HAPPENED.
... STILL, SHE IS THINKING "CELCIA WILL RETURN".
RIO...
WHY...
WHY DID YOU LET HER GO...?
EIGHTH

... That's what Celcia wanted.
That's what I mean. That just can't be.
She doesn't know even one person there.
Luca will be there.
He is useless for that, isn't he?!
Hwaah
SFX: BAMF
... Even so,
Celcia did say "That's fine".
Naoya!
... Cut it out.
Whaa?!

SFX: HAH HAH HAH

SFX: BLUSH

HIKARU, YOU TOO...
DID YOUR BEST NOT TO CRY.
!
YOU TAUGHT HER EVEN TO SEW.
THAT WAS GRAND.
UH ...
OF-
SFX: GULP
OF COURSE I DID!
BECAUSE RIO'S HERE...
SFX: GHH...
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE...
CELCIA WAS SINCERE WHEN SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO KEEP RIO SAFE.

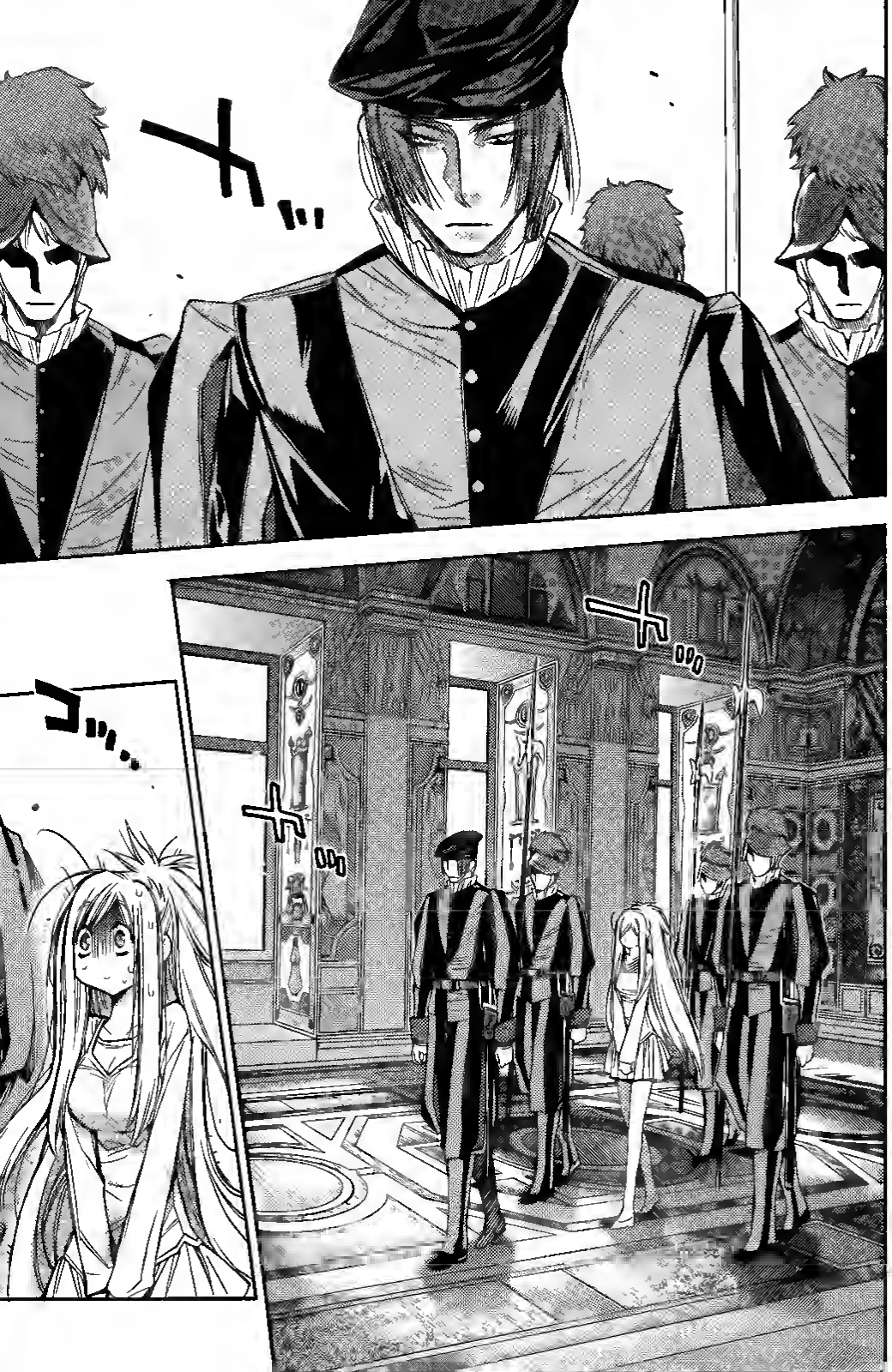
IF EVEN SHE DOESN'T NEED ME TO PROTECT HER
... I STILL WOULD
ENJOY BEING TOLD "PROTECT BOTH CELCIA AND RIO".
AND THEN
THEN I WILL.
IF YOU TELL ME TO PROTECT RIO,

ISN'T PROTECTING THE REQUEST THE ONLY THING I CAN DO?
HIKARU, DO YOU KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT?
?... IT'S THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, RIGHT?
IT IS THE PINNACLE OF ALL CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE WORLD.
IT'S A BIT OF A LARGE CHURCH.
Haha
"A BIT", SHE SAYS...
... SO, THE VATICAN...?

IF THEY'LL REALLY PROTECT CELCIA, THEN IT'LL BE OKAY SOMEHOW.
IT'S OKAY TO CRY.
HELL NO.
WE HAVE TO SMILE.

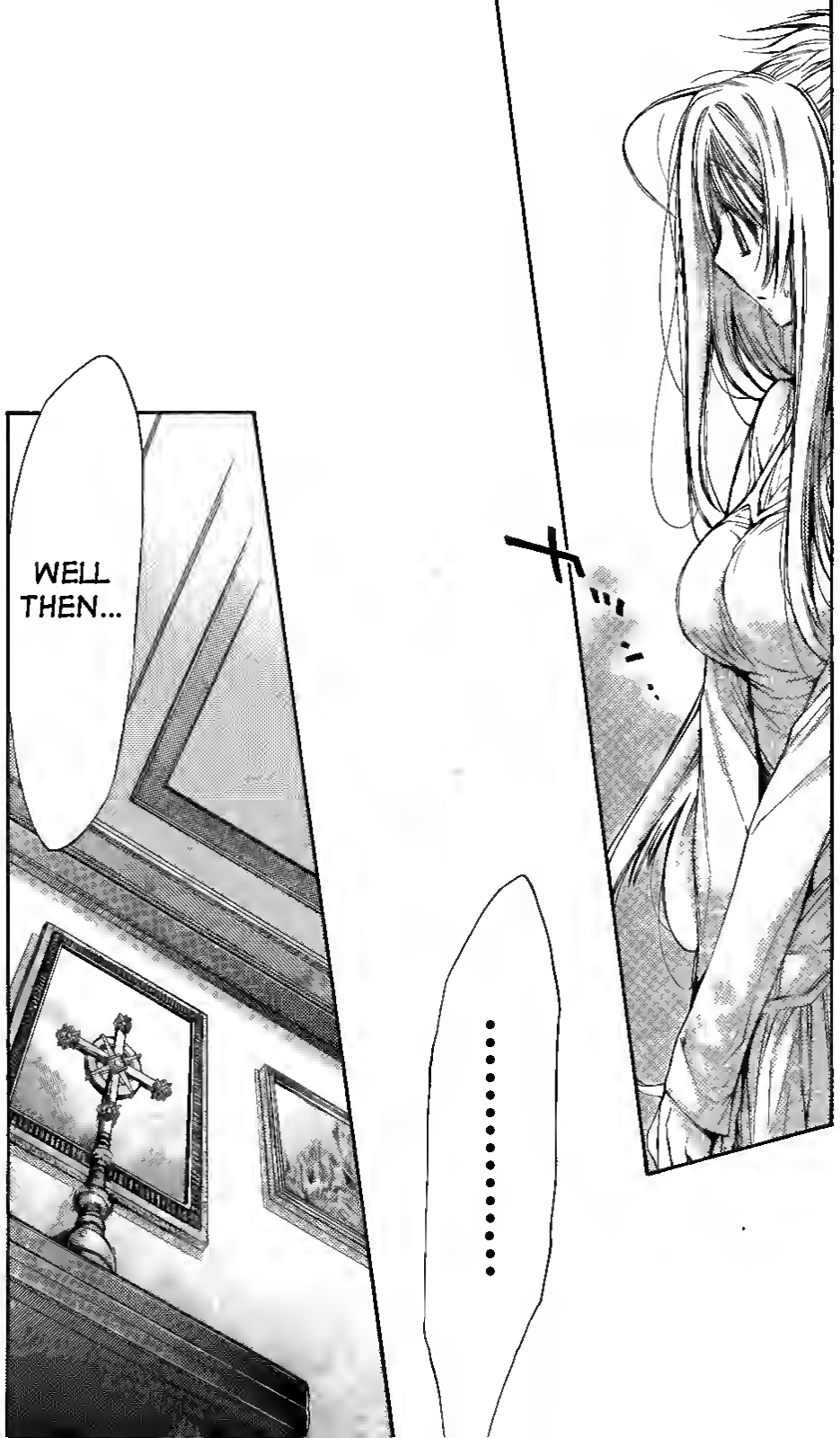
zzzbzzzbzzz
IF THEY CAN'T PROTECT HER, I'LL PERSONALLY GO THERE AND PUNCH LUCA!
HEY, HOLD IT.
THAT WOULD CAUSE A DIPLOMATIC PROBLEM...
ITALY
ROME

VATICAN CITY-STATE
ooo


ﾁｯ…
ｺﾂ…
ｺﾂ
ｺﾂ

TH....
THIS IS...
A LIT...
ガタガタガタガタ
SFX: TREMBLE SWEAT NERVOUS
EEEEH
IT'S A LITTLE, UM
I
I'M
EH- HOLD IT
HEY

LUCA-SAN, HEY
...AH
HEY...


WELL THEN...
.....

...WHAT THE...?
WAS THAT REAL?
IT'S WONDER-FUL...
YES, BUT
WHAT IF IT WAS SLEIGHT OF HAND?

CEL-CIA-SAN,
CAN YOU GROW IT ANY MORE THAN THIS?
Y-YES.
UM...
IF I GROW IT FURTHER WITHOUT ENOUGH WATER, THEN IT WILL DIE...
... HMMM
WITH THIS THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WELL.
THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WITH CELCIA'S PERSONALITY OR CHARACTER.
... SO NOW SHE SHOULD RECEIVE THE PROTECTION OF THE VATICAN...

... For one not particularly fervent to serve God
... this place will not be so fun, but...
WE SHOULD GIVE IT A BIT MORE THOROUGH ANALYSIS.
WHY?
SHE DID IN FACT USE HER POWER AT THE LEON COMPANY.
THERE HAS EVEN BEEN FIGHTING... IN FRONT OF THIS CHILD.
OH, WE SHOULD CERTAINLY PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR HER, BUT

FOR NOW
WE SHOULD SUMMON SCIEN-TISTS
AND OPEN A VATICAN ACADEMY.
... What?!
What purpose could they possibly...
DO THEY INTEND TO HAVE HER USE HER POWER IN FRONT OF ACADEMICS?!

AND CELCIA ISN'T SOME THING TO BE SHOWN OFF.....
...UM...
ER...
FOR THE TIME BEING WE WILL KEEP CELCIA IN AN INNER ROOM.
CALL THE NUNS.

HEY... LUCA-SAN IS...
UNTIL SHE IS CALLED BY THE ARCHBISHOP...
NO ONE SHALL ENTER.

04
EIGHTH

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Typesetter: TKS
Cleaner: Zack
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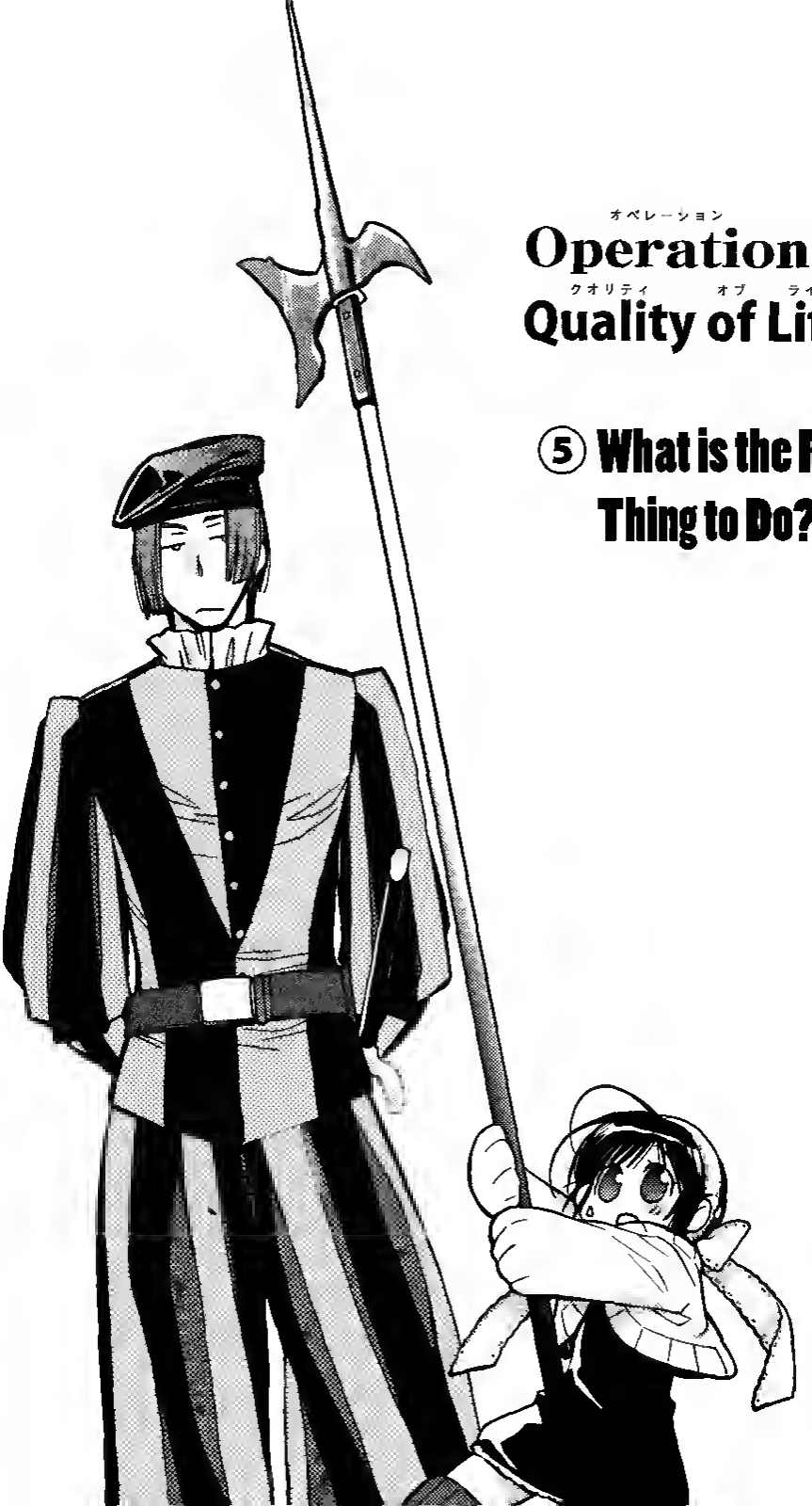
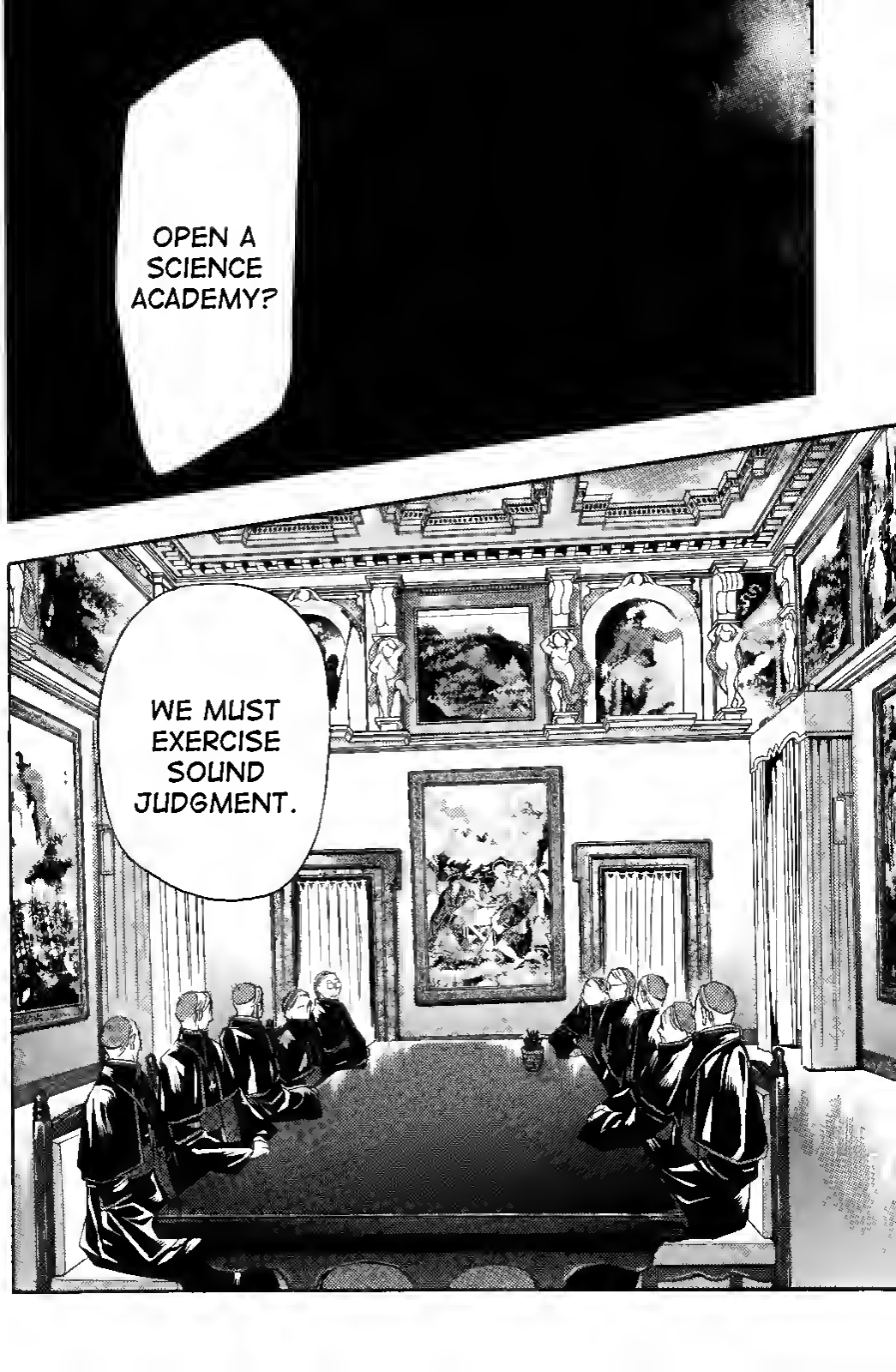
Operation.24 Quality of Life,

⑤ What is the Right Thing to Do?




OPEN A SCIENCE ACADEMY?
WE MUST EXERCISE SOUND JUDGMENT.

CARDINAL ORSINI, YOU SAW IT TOO.
QUITE SO. BUT TO SEE IT BEFORE OUR VERY EYES...
WHEAT, SPROUTING UP IN AN INSTANT.
...INDEED I DID. BUT WHAT WE DON'T KNOW IS WHAT MADE IT HAPPEN.
CARDINAL VERNANZO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PERSONALLY USED THE GUARDS TO BRING "CELCIA" HERE.
I HEAR THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PEOPLE EXPLOITING HER SINCE SHE WAS VERY YOUNG.
WE MUST KEEP HER UNDER OUR CARE.

LOOK, IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO SAY IT...
...THE DEVOUT?
SHE IS OF THE DEVOUT.
WHAT'S MORE, HER FAMILY IS FROM SICILY, AND SHE WAS BAPTIZED SHORTLY AFTER BIRTH.
THAT WOULD NEEDLESSLY DRAW ATTENTION FROM SOCIETY.
TH-
IF THAT IS THE CASE, SHE COULD EVEN UNDERGO "RECOGNITION AS A SAINT"...
A "MIRACLE FROM GOD"...
IF THAT POWER REALLY HAS NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS, THEN IT COULD ONLY BE...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WASN'T THE GIRL REALLY BEAUTIFUL...?
YEAH, A REAL CUTIE.
FOR ONE OF THE DEVOUT TO PRODUCE SUCH A MIRACLE.
NO, IF YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, IT WOULD BE A GREAT HONOR FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

SHOW SOME DECORUM!!
THERE MIGHT BE AN INCREASE IN YOUTHS RECEIVING CATHOLIC BAPTISMS.
WHA...
SFX: HA HA HA
...IT IS A FACT THAT ADHERENTS ARE DE-CREASING.
THAT IS MY POINT.
I WILL NOT ACCEPT SUCH A VULGAR MANNER OF DOING THINGS.
SFX: EEP
ARE YOU SAYING HE WOULD SET ASIDE THE POPE?!
WOULD GOD ALLOW A WOMAN... A GIRL LIKE THAT... TO BE A CHANNEL FOR HIS POWER?
THE PROMINENT ISSUE HERE IS US IM-PRUDENTLY CALLING SOMETHING A "MIRACLE FROM GOD".

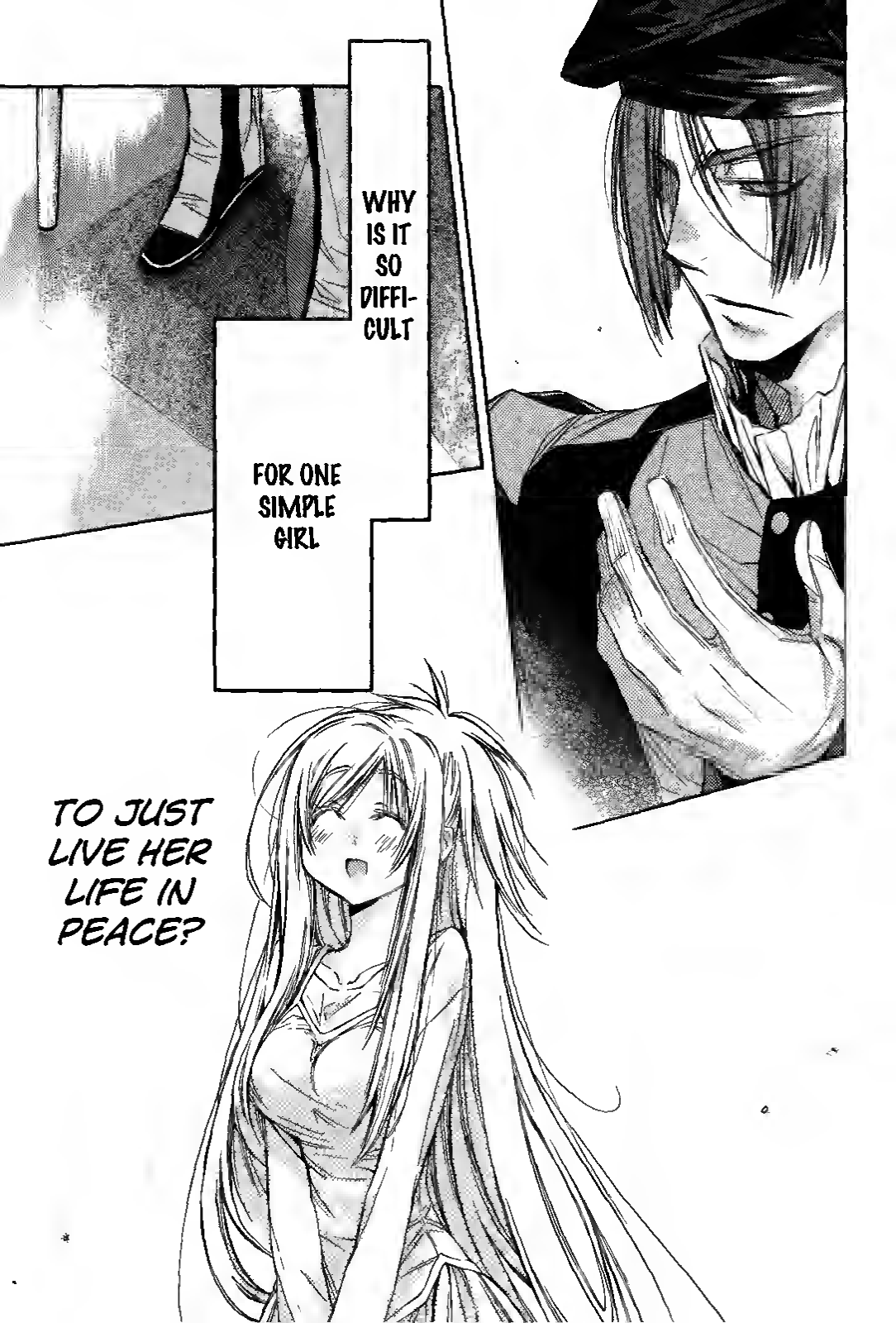
...WHY WOULD THAT HAPPEN?
NOW, NOW. WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS
WE SHOULD OPEN AN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND SOLICIT THE VIEWS OF SCIENTISTS AND DOCTORS.
THAT'S MY POINT.
I'M SAYING WE'LL BE TAKING LIFE-LONG SCIENCE SCHOLARS AND ENTREPRENEURS AND PARADING THEM AROUND THE GIRL!
THERE IS NO NEED TO CONSULT THE POPE,
AS IT IS NOT THE POPE'S DECISION TO SUMMON SCIENTISTS TO AN ACADEMY.

WE HAVE NO NEED TO OPEN AN ACADEMY.
THAT GIRL'S "MIRACLE" IS OBVIOUSLY A LIE.
WE CANNOT TROUBLE HIS HOLINESS THE POPE WITH THIS KIND OF THING!
AREN'T YOU JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVE A PERSONAL DISLIKE FOR WOMEN?!
.....
OH

THIS WON'T DO...!
SUCH AN OUTCOME IS IMPOSSIBLE...
すぅ
うぅ
うん。

SFX: DESPAIR

JUST LIKE WORLD PEACE.
.....
.....
...HEY, ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU FEELING ILL...?
No...


WHY IS IT SO DIFFI-CULT
FOR ONE SIMPLE GIRL
TO JUST LIVE HER LIFE IN PEACE?

.....
Cardinal Vernanzo.

HMM...
...IT'S PRETTY DIFFICULT TO GET A CONSENSUS.
Divergent opinions cannot be avoided, but at the very least...
even if it's just a science academy,
it shouldn't be opened up.
I'M OF THE SAME OPINION.
Cardinal ...
I believe
that Celcia's power, at the very least, shouldn't be used without her consent.

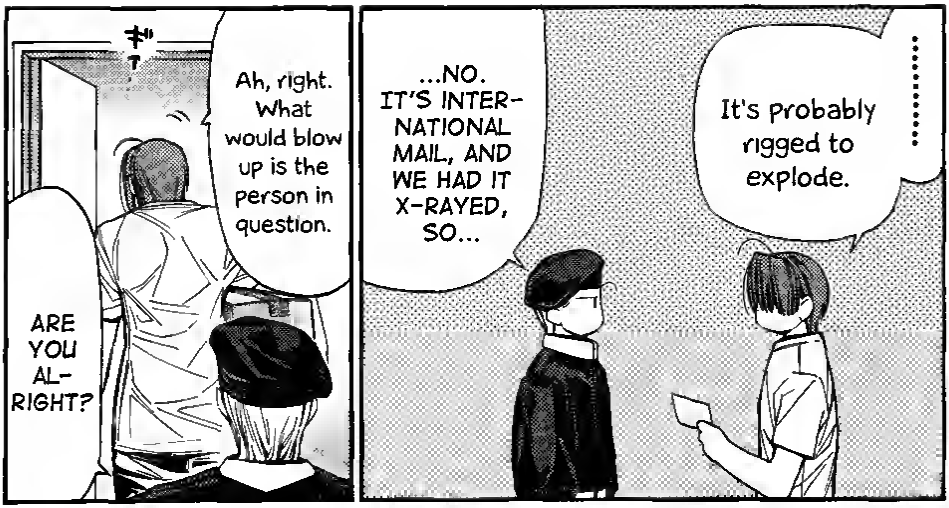
That was why I believed in carrying out my duty in bringing her here.
That was the condition of the Vatican taking her in.
...HOW RARE
FOR YOU TO TALK ABOUT *YOU, YOURSELF, AND WHAT YOU DO HERE.*
Who...?

NO.
WELL,
AND, IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THERE ARE OF COURSE PRIESTS FROM SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL BACKGROUNDS.
I'M RATHER ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SCIENCE MYSELF.
HOW-EVER...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
SFX: HO HO HO
YOU CAN'T PROTECT THE GIRL FROM HER OWN CIRCUM-STANCES.
WE ARE UNITED IN SERVING GOD, A BEING WHOM WE CANNOT SEE.
THAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT...

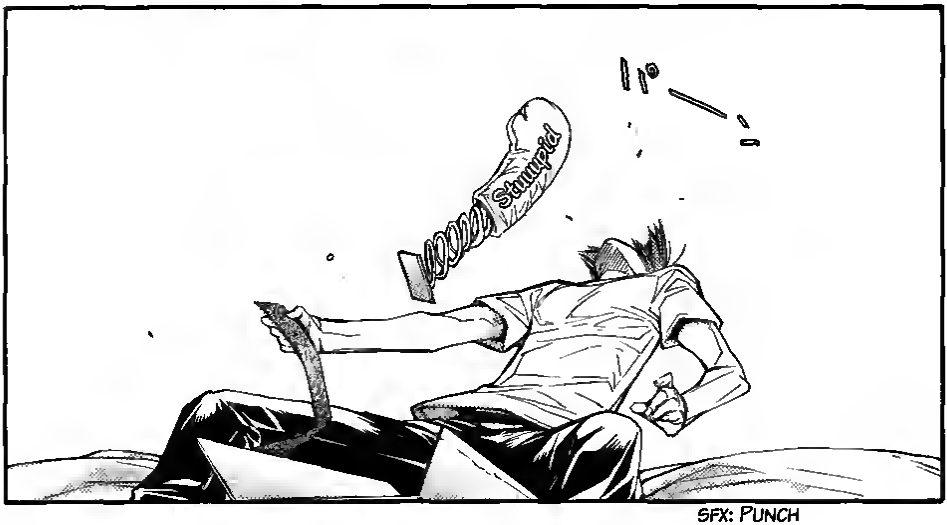
GUARDS BAR-RACKS
It's what Celcia wanted...
The fighting does not persist in plain view,
yet such stupid conflict still occurs behind closed doors.
SIMPLY CLAIMING THAT IT'S DIFFICULT IS EASY.
SO DIFFICULT...
.....

No. From the very beginning,
all of that happened because moving Celcia from Leon Labs to the Vatican took too long.
So I wound up searching for Celcia at Eighth, where she was being sheltered.
LUCA-SAN.
.....

...WAS BRINGING HER HERE THE RIGHT THING TO DO?


ARE YOU AL-RIGHT?
Ah, right. What would blow up is the person in question.
...NO. IT'S INTER-NATIONAL MAIL, AND WE HAD IT X-RAYED, SO...
It's probably rigged to explode.

SFX: RIP



SFX: PUNCH

Western-style clothes?
... Hm?
※ KIDS DON'T DO THIS AT HOME
そーっ
SFX: TOSS
...Ah, the things that Celcia had with her at Eighth.
"She'll need a change of clothes, so I'm sending these on ahead."
"Make absolutely sure
I won't steal them.
Why would I?
"No stealing them."

to please deliver them to Celcia."

Hikaru

SFX: CHIRP CHIRP...
Alone in silence...
.....
.....
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE GOTTEN TO SLEEP ALL BY MYSELF...
...CHURCH BELLS RING REALLY EARLY IN THE MORNING, DON'T THEY...?

...I WONDER WHAT I'LL BE ABLE TO DO TODAY?
OH, RIGHT.
WHEN THE SISTER COMES, I'LL HAVE HER TEACH ME HOW THEY CLEAN AROUND HERE.
I MUST NOT BECOME A BURDEN TO THEM.
I WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE THEM TO LET ME DO IT AT EIGHTH, AFTER ALL.
YEAH... SO THEY'LL PROBABLY...
AND THEN... OH! PERHAPS THEY WOULD LEND ME SOME BOOKS...!
IF I MAKE A PROPER REQUEST, I'M SURE THEY WILL...
WHAT KIND OF BOOK WOULD BE RIGHT?
...OH. I BET THERE ARE ONLY BIBLES HERE, HUH?
Hm.

...I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY SCIENCE BOOKS AT ALL IN THE VATICAN.
It's kinda difficult
LIKE IN RIO-SAN'S FIELD, PERHAPS.
IT WAS... IPS... MOLEC-ULAR... BIOLOGY
...I STILL HAD OTHER THINGS THAT I WANTED TO ASK HER ABOUT...
O-OH, RIGHT... I WONDER IF RIO-SAN IS WEARING THE WHITE COAT...
THOUGH I DIDN'T DO A VERY GOOD JOB ON IT.
WELL, IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH IT,
I'M SURE HIKARU-SAN WILL FIX IT RIGHT UP.
YEAH...
.....

...NO,
I MUSTN'T
DO THIS.

I HAVE
TO BE
RESOLUTE.

...NICE
WEATHER.

MMMPH
...

I CAN
LOOK
OUTSIDE,
AS LONG
AS IT'S
JUST FOR
A LITTLE
WHILE...

OH.

IT'S A
GUARD-
SMAN.

SFX: PEEK

AND LUCA-SAN... I WONDER WHERE HE'S STANDING GUARD?
Such strange clothes
I DIDN'T THINK THAT
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE EVEN LUCA-SAN...
I THINK, CELCIA...
THAT AS LONG AS IT'S WHAT YOU WISH FOR, IT'S FINE.

TOO FAR?
I WANT TO PROTECT RIO-SAN.
I THINK IT'S OKAY.
AS LONG AS YOU AREN'T PUSHING YOURSELF TOO FAR,
YEAH.
UNDERSTOOD.
NAOYA ...
I'M SURE RIO-SAN IS SPENDING HER TIME IN A FUN MANNER.
...EIGHTH WAS REALLY FUN.

...I KNOW THAT BEST.
NAOYA ...
A PACK-AGE?
Yes. It was delivered last night.
...WHAT, PRAY TELL, IS THAT?
They are Celcia's belongings. Please bring them to her.

...WHAT A PAIN.
.....
OH, THESE SUIT CELCIA-SAN PERFECTLY...
OH MY, IT'S ALL CUTE WESTERN CLOTHING.
BOX: FRESH ORANGES
SFX: KYAA KYAA

SUCH CLOTHING WOULD ONLY MAKE A YOUNG WOMAN STAND OUT EVEN MORE.
THAT SHE IS NOT TO DRESS IN SUCH A MANNER WHILE SHE'S HERE.
AND I JUST TOLD CELCIA-SAN YESTERDAY
... WITH-DRAW.
YOU PERFORMED WELL.
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO... NO.

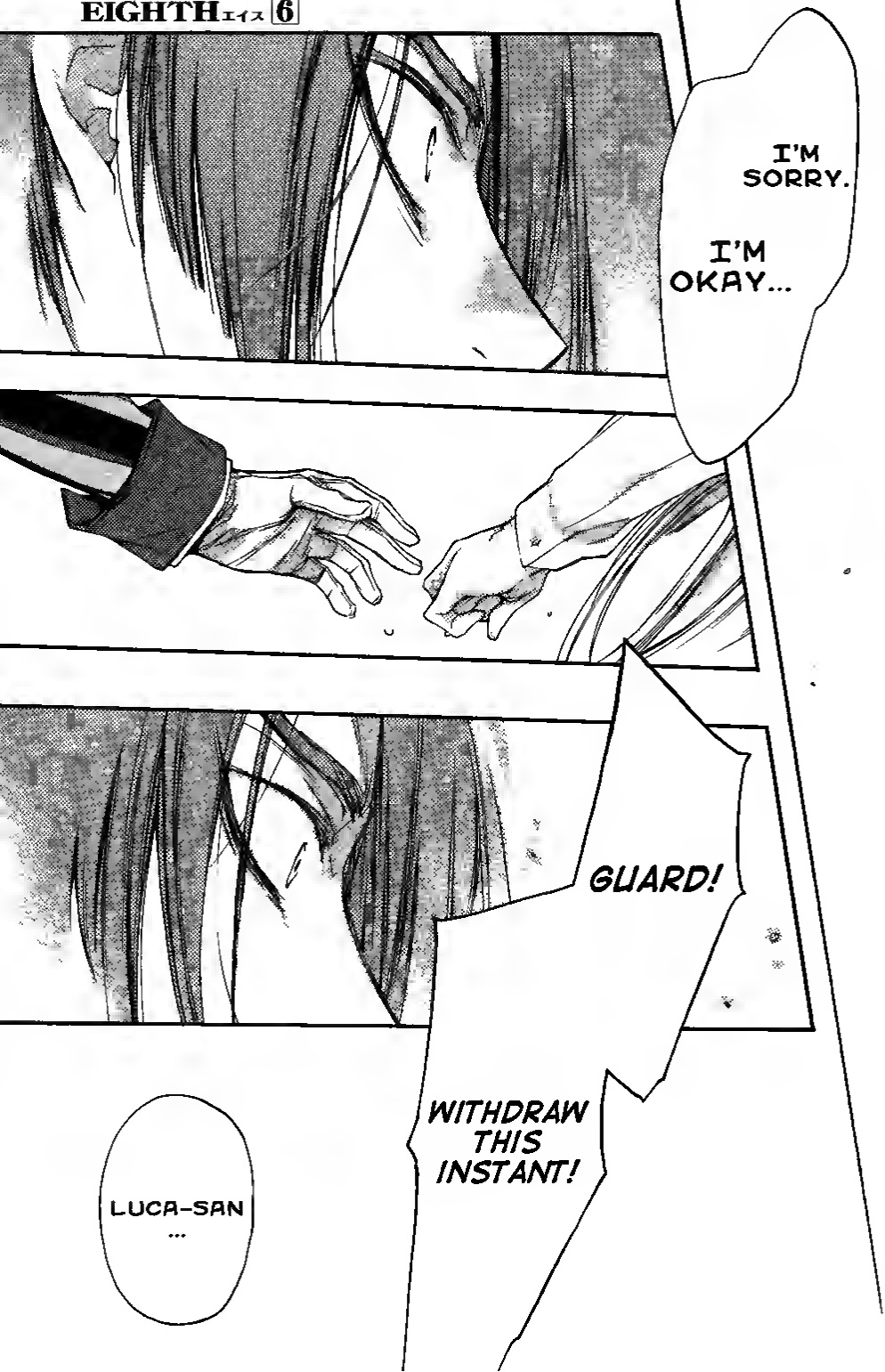
...
YES
MA'AM.
SFX: SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS RUNNING THEIR WAY
AH-
HEY!

HEY ...!
!
THOSE ARE...
MY CLOTHES ...
CELCIA-SAN!
I BEG OF YOU, PLEASE GIVE THEM TO ME.
UM...
WH-WHAT THE ...?
YOU MUST NOT LEAVE THE ROOM.

I WON'T WEAR THEM, AND...
MY OLD CLOTHES... UHM...
I WON'T WEAR THEM.
MARI-SAN BOUGHT THEM ESPECIALLY FOR ME...
AND THEN... GAVE THEM TO ME...
I BEG OF YOU! I WON'T WEAR THEM!!

I UNDER STAND, CELCIA-SAN.
I NEVER INTENDED TO CONFISCATE THEM.
GUARD! HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO REMAIN HERE!?
CELCIA—

LUCA-
SAN.


I'M SORRY.
I'M OKAY...
GUARD!
WITHDRAW THIS INSTANT!
LUCA-SAN ...

I'M OKAY, LUCA-SAN.
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
I'M SORRY.
YOUR DUTY IS THE SAFETY OF HIS HOLINESS, THE POPE.
I FEEL FINE.

...I knew
this would
happen.

I SOMEHOW KNEW FROM THE START THAT THINGS WOULD BE LIKE THIS... THAT CELCIA WOULD BE APART FROM ME.

AND YET

I BROUGHT HER TO THE VATICAN,

I AM SORRY.
WE HAVE OPENED A SCIENCE ACADEMY.
CARDINAL ORSINI HAS BEGUN THE FORMALITIES.

IF THAT'S THE CASE,

THEN ISN'T IT BETTER FOR HER TO REMAIN IN ISOLATION?

AND CONFLICT MAY ARISE WHICH WILL INVOLVE OTHERS,

...IT IS LAMENTABLE, BUT AS FAR AS CELCIA IS CONCERNED...
THE ACADEMY
MUST FORCE HER TO CLAIM THAT IT IS A LIE... THAT SHE DOES NOT POSSESS THE POWER

IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL BE FINE FOR US TO KEEP PROTECTING HER

...WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU CLAIMING THAT SHE DID?

That reminds me...
Just where did Serushia-onee-san go?
SFX: OH-
Oh, and Ruka-onii-san.
EH?
I absent-mindedly forgot what I wanted to ask.
At this rate I won't manage to finish this letter.
Mmm
AH...
UHM...
AH-
scribble
scribble
scribble
SFX: GULP

I GUESS I CAN'T LIE TO HER NOW...
I BELIEVE THAT SHE'S GOING TO THE VATICAN.
Bachikan?
OH? WHAT IS THE VATICAN?

I know what it is.
YOU WOULD...
She's a "Great Sensei", after all
I went there once.

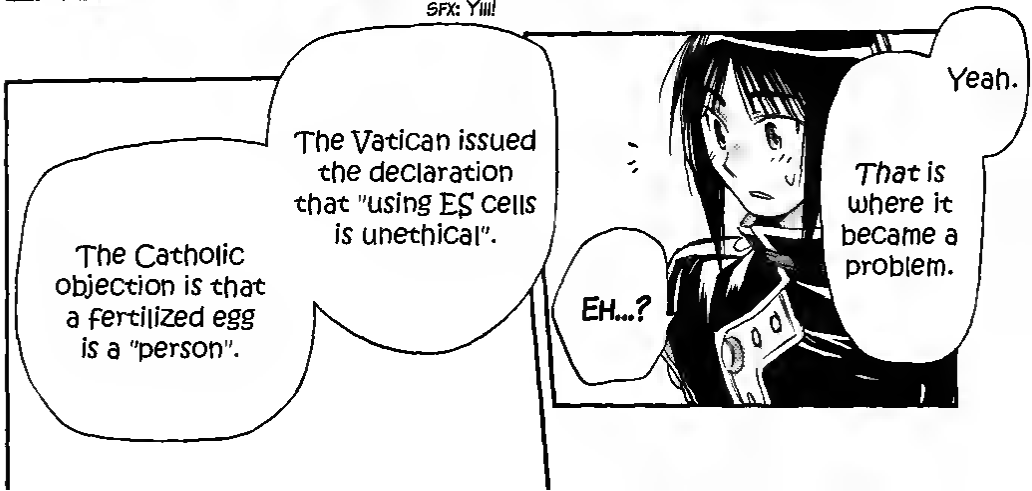
I met the Pope in Rome
when I was 5 years old
WHAT?!
HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?!
Just how great of a sensei is she?!
Mmm ...
Well, I'm exaggerating, but...

I was invited to see the Pope, as the Japanese university professor who created the world's first iPS cells.
When I met him, he said it was rare for a child to be conducting genetic engineering.
OKAY, BUT...
WHAT DOES THE VATICAN HAVE TO DO WITH iPS?
おおお
SFX: WHOA.
Uhm...
Before the advent of iPS technology,
there were "ES cells"*.
They're still using them for research.
TL/N: ES CELLS: EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS
Oh, I've heard of those
They're universal cells that can be transformed into any cells in the body.
ARE THEY THE SAME AS iPS?
Strictly speaking, they are different.
It's similar to a clone embryo.
The biggest difference is...

A FERTILIZED EGG...?!
Yeah.
You break one to make them.
!
It uses a "fertilized egg" as the raw material.

WHOA.
PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH SCARY STUFF.
ひぃっ!
Brt By Brt!
About 8 or 9 years later, it'd be possible to have made another me!

SFX: Yiii!


Yeah.
That is where it became a problem.
EH...?
The Vatican issued the declaration that "using ES cells is unethical".
The Catholic objection is that a fertilized egg is a "person".

I've heard that, back when Catholics held political power in America,
research funding was cut off, and the development slowed.
Though it's all old stuff from before I was born.
WHOA ...
I understand the point. Even the researchers were concerned.
But they knew that it could be useful in curing ailments, and so did the Vatican.
That's why there's iPS!
Skin Cells
iPS
TH-THAT'S TOO CLOSE.
In short, I was praised!
By the Vatican!
I SEE...
SFX: KYAA!
ERM... SO THAT MEANS
THE VATICAN MAY STILL BE CONFLICTED ABOUT FERTILIZED EGGS BEING USED?

Yeah... I don't really know.
But...
researchers do think about whether it's good or bad.
Maybe it's difficult to create rules that everyone will agree to?
.....
YOU SURE ARE WISE...
A great sensei indeed.
So...
why did Serushia-onee-chan go to the Vatican?
.....
RIO-SENSEI, YOUR HAND STOPPED!
Hey, you'll lose track!!
Drrrrrrrr
Ah-
Oh, right.

I'LL GO OUT AND SEE.
NO.
Someone's there...
Oh.
HM?
YES?
MAY I ASK WHAT BUSINESS YOU HAVE HERE?
EXCUSE ME.
THE CHIEF ASKED ME TO HAVE YOU BRING HIM RIO-SENSEI'S DEVELOPMENT DATA.
MY CHIEF?
YES.
.....

UM...
AH, I SEE.
HE DIDN'T SEND A COMM ABOUT ME BRINGING IT, BUT STILL...
.....?
CHIEF KNOWS I'M HERE.
SUCH IMPORTANT DATA IS HANDLED BY RESEARCHERS THEMSELVES, NOT THE GUARDS.
HOW-EVER...
UNDER-STOOD.
MAYBE IT'S TO SEPARATE ME FROM RIO...?
WELL THEN... MAY I RELY ON YOU IN THIS INSTANCE?
AH... I SEE.

Understood.
Well then, if you'll excuse me.
SFX: Tap tap tap
SFX: Bee-bee-beeep
ka-klik
...So he's always with her? That'll be a pain.
Rio-sensei.
The Chief's actually acting like a leader.
It seems the Chief is asking to see your report.
Yeah.
Can I go?
Shall I call for another guard?
Yeah...
.....

.....
...?
RIO...
...O-
Onii-sa...
I don't feel so goo...
ドカッ
!
RIO!!

ガンガンコミックスJOKER

GC JOKER

EIGHTH

6

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